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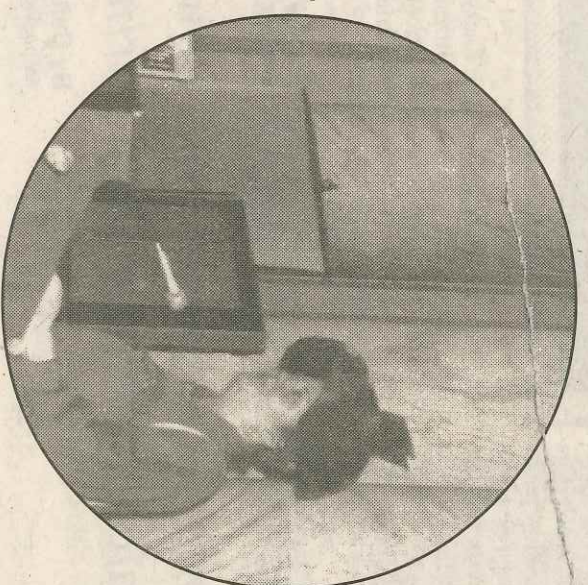
American Civ's Fischer a veteran

By Jenny Askin
Production Editor

Rosie the Riveter went back to work in November.

Instead of joining the men on the assembly line, welding parts for aircraft carriers and B-52s, Rosie spoke about her life before 450 people, almost all the them more than 70 years old. As one of the nation's unsung war heroes, she told the audience about the realities of the workplace, when the men go to war and the women go to work.

Rosie, also known as American Civilization teacher Laurie Fischer, was one of 26 speakers at the third annual World War II Veterans Committee Conference. The DC meeting, on Capitol



History teacher Laurie Fischer speaks at the WWII Veteran Conference as "Rosie the Riveter."

Hill and at the Hotel Washington, drew veterans and their families, as well as those interested in "The War to End all Wars."

The meeting was full of speakers, some of whom fought in World War II. Each day was full of lectures from each speaker, the lectures led up to the groundbreaking ceremony for the US World War II Memorial on the Mall.

Fischer, who specializes in historic reenactments for her US History classes, found out about the conference last spring. While she looked through the agenda she came across a favorite topic: Women in World War II.

The organizing committee soon heard about Fischer's teaching techniques and how she often dresses in characters

according to the time period she is teaching. Fischer was invited to attend the conference to speak about the role of women during the war, in full costume of course.

As a young girl Fischer never dreamed she would become a history teacher. She wanted to become a veterinarian. However, due to money difficulties she enrolled in history courses while attending Youngstown State University in Ohio.

"I always wanted to be a veterinarian, but my family and I decided it was too expensive. My stepdad was a high school history teacher and I was always interested in history, so I decided to take some classes," said Fischer.

Fischer earned her BS in Education

See Fischer PAGE 4

Audience leaves fall play laughing

By Nayna Gupta
Inside Editor

When her advanced theater students begged her to use it as this year's fall theater production, theater teacher May Jo Levesque decided that the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "You Can't Take It With You" was a perfect choice.

The show, a comedy about a girl from an eccentric family falling in love with an attractive man from a well-off family, is built around the theme that the important things in life are

family and love, not just material things.

"It was so great to do a comedy because the attitude of the cast is much more lively," said junior actor John Gegen.

After auditions were held during the first week of October, Levesque was overwhelmed with the amount of talent the students had displayed. Though the cast already fit more actors than most comedies, she decided to create two casts for the show. While this made rehearsals and budgeting

See Play PAGE 4

WS brings back AIDS ed for seniors

By Julie Davis
ETC. Editor

After a three-year absence, WS again held the Face-to-Face program to better educate seniors about AIDS, HIV, and STDs.

Public health nurses from NOVAM (Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry) and AIDS pa-

tients talked to students about the diseases and disease prevention.

Fairfax County Public Schools recently approved two programs for the Family Life Education program. Face-to-Face and Secrets are programs which will be taught to juniors and seniors. Administrator Joan Galdi coordinates the programs,

taught through English classes.

The AIDS educators told students that 75 percent of all high school students are sexually active nationwide. School officials say it is important to address this trend with education.

"This is a much needed program and it is now more obvious that AIDS and STDs play a

major role in young lives," said senior administrator Richard Griffin. "It is more important that we openly talk about it."

School officials and students alike hope that programs such as Face-to-Face help teenagers make better — and safer — choices.

See AIDS PAGE 4



3 STUDENTS
MISS MR. ROGERS.



9 FIND THE TEN
CDS TO BUY THIS
HOLIDAY.



15 LEARN ABOUT
THE SYMPOSIUM
COFFEE HOUSE.



One of the casts for "You Can't Take It With You," gathers after their production. Jenae Ellermann



Leslie Conners



Andrea Reece



Joanne Stelmack

Fiery crash kills two 1997 grads

By Lauren Decot
Viewpoint Editor

Two WS graduates were killed in a car accident Thanksgiving weekend when their speeding car hit a guard rail on Interstate 395 on their way home from DC Live nightclub. The accident, which occurred early morning on November 24, killed 21-year-old Leslie Conners and 21-year-old Andrea Reece. Both women were 1997 graduates.

Two other women were riding in the car with Conners and Reece. Joanne Stelmack, 22 and also a 1997 WS graduate of WS, and 24-year-old Angel Maldonado, were riding in the back seat of the 1994 Mazda. All four women were ejected from the right side of the car upon impact. State police determined that drinking was a part of the evening.

See Crash PAGE 5

No alternative schools exist in the real world

Some students are problematic.

It's a fact of life. Just like some people are studious, and some people aren't. And the problem students tend to keep the studious students from learning. The best solution to this problem is to simply send them somewhere else, to an alternative school. Right?

Wrong. It's easy to say that the best way to take care of a broken television is to throw it out the window. But it doesn't work. Chances are, the TV will crash and make a bigger mess than it was before.

To be fair, of course, student selection is a bit more than a broken appliance. The idea is to allow public schools to decide to invite students to attend the school.

again the next year, letting them remove problem students so the other kids can learn better. At least that's how it works in theory.

It's also nothing new. Student selection is the entire basis of our system of higher education. Even public

colleges and universities choose their students. Private primary and secondary schools do the same. And it works perfectly. Private schools produce flawless people. It's rather obvious.

Editorial

Take, for example, Theodore Kaczynski, our favorite Unabomber. This exemplary citizen was chosen by Harvard University to attend the school when he was 16. By the time he was 40 he'd sent a string of letter bombs that killed three people and injured 29.

There's also the small matter of corruption. As is common knowledge, there are certain academic standards that students must meet to attend college. Unless, of course, the student in question is a varsity athlete, or the child of a wealthy businessman who's contributed large sums of money to the school, or the child of someone who's attended the school in the past.

Century.

The key to fixing the educational system is to learn how to work together. Unless someone plans on putting all the troublesome, ignorant people in a holding cell somewhere, everyone is going to have to get used to it. There aren't any alternative schools in the real world.

Current drinking age leaves teens buzzing

Age 21 allows time for teenagers to learn to handle alcohol responsibly

Lower drinking limit will raise drinking awareness

By Lauren Sheffield
Oracle Photographer

By Caitlin Marvin
Managing Editor

The drinking age of twenty-one was established for a specific reason: to give people time to become mature and responsible so that by the time they are legally allowed to drink, they will be able to handle themselves. However, despite the present age, many people, even as young as fourteen, have taken up the illegal hobby of underage drinking.

Obviously if minors want to drink, they are going to find a way to do it, and no one can stop them. However, if the legal age is lowered, that just creates a greater opportunity for more people to drink. Not only will it be the minors who would have done it anyway, but it will also be the minors who wanted to but did not because it was illegal. Lowering the age is like shoving a bottle in their face, inviting more absent minded teens to succumb to the pleasures of alcohol. If anything, decreasing the age creates more of a problem and a greater risk of drinking and driving.

The more people who are allowed to drink, the more people are driving under the influence and possibly not responsible enough to get a designated driver. Responsibility is a big issue that factors into the legal drinking age. Some people take longer than others to develop a good sense of responsibility for their actions. Drinking, though it may seem to be nothing more than a relaxing activity, can actually be an enormous burden. As a drinker you have to know your limit and have enough sense to give up your keys if you have had too much. Many teenagers do not understand this and take on the "superhuman theory" and see themselves as invincible.

Many minors have made this mistake of underestimating fate and have unfortunately learned from their mistakes the more difficult way. Even with the age firmly set at twenty-one, there are many car accidents and deaths caused from legal age drinkers who are driving drunk.

Friday the 24 of November, two WS graduates were killed at 3:15 am in an alcohol related car accident. The girls, Leslie Connors and Andrea Reece were of legal drinking age and were driving home from a night of clubbing in DC. If some adults cannot even take responsibility for themselves, then the responsibility should certainly not rest on the shoulders of people who are even younger.

I also do not believe that it would be wise to raise the drinking age simply because even more people will become underage drinkers and feel the need to rebel. The drinking age should stay where it is. It has already caused an upset, so raising it either up or down will not fix anything.

As young adults, the majority of high school students are not as responsible as they should be, so we shouldn't thrust them with the responsibility of drinking.

Statistics prove that even those who are of legal age do not drink responsibly. There have been too many car accident deaths as a result of drunken drivers that thought they could handle their liquor.

Even though there are a number of people who know how to take care of themselves when they consume alcohol, the risk of lowering the drinking age is too great and will endanger an even greater number of innocent people with the tragic carelessness of some.

In two months, I will turn 18. That day I can buy a pack of cigarettes. If I wanted, I could get married. I could get a tattoo, pierce my nose and buy pornographic material. I could volunteer to go to war. I will be old enough to vote, to be tried as an adult and possess a shot gun. But I won't be able to drink a beer.

In the US, the legal age to drink and purchase alcohol is 21. This law isn't new to anyone. However, the drinking age can cause more problems than it prevents.

What makes 21 the "magical" number? Does that mean I can look forward to my 21st birthday because I will be smarter and more mature than I was the day before? If so, how come nobody ever told me this?

Banning alcohol from teenagers only gives alcohol the facade of being this "forbidden fruit." Drinking is seen as an adult activity and we all want to be adults as soon as possible. So we drink.

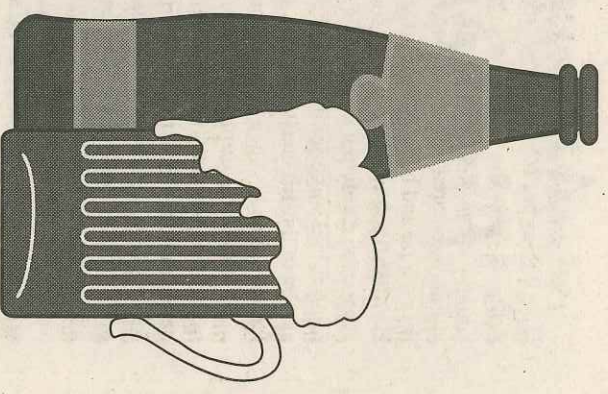
And we drink some more. Not only are teenagers engaging in an illegal act, they are also resorting to binge drinking. When someone tells us we can't have something, we only want it more. It is the same with alcohol.

According to research done by Dr. Ruth Engs, a Professor of Applied Health Sciences at Indiana University, "the proportion of the American population who drink has been going down since 1980. That was long before the states were required to raise the drinking age in 1987.

But on the other hand, while fewer young people are drinking and their average consumption levels have been dropping (along with that of the general population), more young people tend to drink abusively when they do consume. This change has occurred after the increase in the drinking age."

Simply lowering the drinking age won't cure all of America's alcohol problems, but we would be moving in the right direction. We need to be taught how to drink responsibly. Being exposed to alcohol could be a good thing. In countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and Spain, there is a lower drinking age. In these places, responsible drinking is taught through experiences in every day life. So while these countries have a higher consumption rate, the rates of alcoholism and alcohol abuse is lower in these places than the US.

We need to reinforce that alcohol is acceptable, but the abuse of it is not. It is not the drinking that is the problem. Lowering the drinking age would send the message that the act of drinking is not a sign of maturity. The way we drink and how responsible we are about it is the "magical" part of it all.



THE ORACLE

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Mr. Rogers retires from the neighborhood

By Amy Whipple

Oracle Editor

I think there is only one man alive who can get away with keeping a street light next to a fish tank in his kitchen. And now that man is leaving me, TV, and most importantly, the neighborhood.

"Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" has been a part of public television for as long as I can remember. My sister and I used to watch the show with our grandma, and it has only been within the past couple of years that my youngest sister has grown out of the show as well. Or so she claims. I know that it's impossible to grow out of something this great.

There was something so calming about the "neighborhood" in which I grew up. The characters were peaceful, the backdrops cheery, and learning how crayons are made really is kind of interesting.

And then there was trolley. I use to wait on the edge of my seat for the trolley's bell from the moment Mr. Rogers put on his sweater (which, by the way, his mom made, and the Smithsonian displays) until he changed

back into his jacket. On the days when the trolley didn't come around, I was heartbroken.

When it did come around, I was ecstatic. There was something so wonderful about the Neighborhood of Make-Believe that, to this day, still can't be matched. My favorite of all was Daniel Striped Tiger, which was odd because he was a shy, polite little creature, and I was a loud, outgoing, and obnoxious 4-year-old.

I loved every moment of it, and when the trolley came around to take my back to the house, my heart would sink. Why would anyone want to leave the Neighborhood of Make-Believe?

And now I'm asking that question of Mr. Rogers himself. Since 1968, he has invited us into his home, into his life, and into a world that could never be destroyed. Or so I thought. But it can be, and he is leaving me for the Internet. There will be no more "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," but Mr. Rogers will have a web site in which he will devote all his time. On the Internet, people get hurt and bad things happen; things that never ever happened in the neighborhood.

Mr. Rogers wrote all of the songs, and at the end of his show there is one that goes "it's a good feeling, a very

After 32 years, Mr. Rogers leaves his neighborhood for good.



good feeling, to know that I'll be back when the day is new..." I wonder if he ever realized that one day he wouldn't be back. I certainly never did.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was appalled and embittered by Nikki Werking's most recent editorial. The reason Werking is not offered athletic scholarships is because she is not athletically extraordinary. The athletes that are scouted from WS by the top schools in the country are scouted because they stand out as the best of their kind among the entire metro area. Some are ranked nationally. These athletes dedicate as much to their game and body as the best students due to their studies and minds.

If Werking was referring to soccer, it's not just "kicking the ball well," as she condescendingly put it. It's keeping their bodies in the best condition, enduring injuries and surgeries for the sake of the game, competing mentally and physically as part of a team, mastering the tactics of the game, and developing the natural talent that makes them exceptional that gets these athletes into excellent schools. It may be true that some of these athletes do not take the most challenging courses or immense themselves in extracurricular activities. This is logical when the time and dedication they give to their sport is considered. Their pursuit in athletic success is equally noble to a student's academic success. College's high regard for extraordinary athletes hardly taints the picture of our society and is certainly not a misplaced priority in my opinion.

Perhaps Werking hadn't heard, but extraordinary students get lots of scholarships and scouted by top schools as well. In fact, if she wants to "cash in"

on her achievements, she should apply to Washington College MD, which will give her \$40,000 for being in the NHS. However, it will probably take more than five AP's, a "high" GPA, Varsity cheerleader, and editing *The Oracle* to stand out in the nation's top schools. People with 1500+ SATs and the distinction valedictorian on top of noteworthy achievements outside of school are offered scholarships because they are extraordinary.

Being one of the dozen or so valedictorians at WS is quite an achievement and demands a lot of hard work usually in addition to gifted intelligence. Consider the work required to be selected as one of the best 11 soccer players in the entire metro area. That would make you extraordinary.

We do live in a good society. Our priorities are not altogether out of place. After all, the Ivy Leagues, the most prestigious academic schools, don't even offer athletic scholarships.

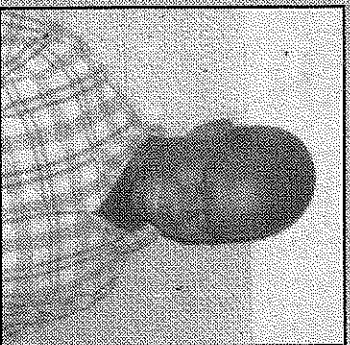
And I'm sure Nikki Werking will get into a good school that will provide her with an excellent education and reward her with everything she deserves, nothing more, nothing less.

Beth Argentiern, 12

P.S. I'd like to add that I am not an athlete. I am one of the abundant good students at WS hoping to be noticed by universities for my good grades and variety of extracurricular activities. I know I have worked very hard to achieve the success I have attained. But I also know how hard my friends have worked to be scouted for their incredible performances in both athletics and academics, and I am very proud and happy for them.

Spartan Spotlight

What's your holiday wish?



"That I will find the woman of my dreams."

—Desmond Braziel, freshman



"I hope it snows on Christmas... and I want a trampoline."

—Deanna Colton, sophomore



"I want my car hooked up."

—Kevin Ngu, junior



"That I will be able to spend it with somebody special."

—Javona McKinney, senior

—Compiled by Maggie Atteberry

'You Can't Take It With You' humors audience



Meg Reilly, who is Alice in the play, kisses Ryan Yanovich, playing the part of Tony, after the two decide to get married despite the difference between their families.



Rebecca Weiner and Jonny Styron, known as Essie and Ed in the play from the 1930s, sit and talk together.

From PAGE 1

time much harder, it also gave more students opportunity for experience on stage.

"There were rumors that I had chosen parts so that one cast was better than another, but I did balance the casts through talent. Both shows were great. I was very proud of them," said Levesque.

One cast performed in the November 16 and November 17 shows, while the other casts performed on the afternoon and evening of November 18.

English teacher, Judy Harris, who came to see the matinee performance on Saturday, also performed in "You Can't Take It With You" when she was a student. She was impressed with the way in which the students presented the play.

"I was awestruck by the performance given by the theater

students. The last scene before intermission was great; I almost wished I could replay it," said Harris.

Because there were different actors in each of the casts, each person had a different interpretation of the characters and their idiosyncrasies.

Senior Elizabeth Wilcox, who played the lead role of a crazy mother in the show, enjoyed her role because it was something new for her.

"Normally I play a serious character and this time I got to play a funnier part," said Wilcox.

"I got to have more fun with interpreting the character," Senior Nicki Peyton, who played the same role as Wilcox in the second cast, enjoyed spending time with the other actors and performing in front of the audience.

"It was so much fun because you get to work with a lot of people and it's so cool to be up there on stage," said Peyton.

Scripts for the show arrived late, leaving very little time for actors and the technical crew to make preparations for the show.

"One of the most challenging details was that we had a lack of technical help," said senior stage manager Jill Rippy. "Everyone had to pull together, but once production week hit, everything came together nicely."

Levesque hopes that next year there will be an even larger turnout for the fall theater productions.

"A lot of students are missing out by not taking the time to see good, quality theater," said Levesque. "I just wish more people would have come."

Fischer represents WS

From PAGE 1

from Youngstown State University in 1985. Fischer then became part of the WS staff in 1989. During her first year Fischer remained a part time teacher, however in 1990 she left in order to have her son. She decided to become a stay at home mom, but in 1996 WS asked her to return.

"I wanted to stay at home for my son, but I always loved teaching. I told myself I would never go to another school beside WS. I was really excited when they invited me to return," said Fischer.

Throughout her education Fischer began to read more and more into the history of World War II. She began her studies with books about Adolf Hitler and then moved onto books about the different battles of the war. The more she learned the more she became interested. She soon became interested in how America coped with the war and how people sacrificed the most common things for the good of the war. One of Fischer's favorite books is *The Greatest Generation*, written by Tom Brokaw. The book discusses how the country survived during the war.

"He basically sang the praises of the people who lived during World War II. That generation truly was the greatest generation," said Fischer.

On November 9, Fischer stood in front of over 450 people some of whom were actually involved in the war. Fischer spoke in full costume after an actual female Aircraft Riveter Millie Crow-Sargent. After her presentation it was Fischer's turn. She spoke in a full Rosie the Riveter costume.

"I was very honored to speak after someone who was actually involved in what I was speaking about," said Fischer.

Throughout the next day-and-a-half Fischer had the opportunity to hear the stories of each of the speakers. For example, Fischer watched as Winston S. Churchill, the prime minister's grandson, spoke about the heroes who came from the WWII generation.

As if all the honor and excitement of the conference weren't enough, Fischer found out that she was in the running to become one of the 24 Outstanding US History Teachers. Fellow US History teacher James Percoco also was selected; in fact he spread the word about Fischer and her teaching techniques.

"When I was contacted by my publisher about the program I immediately thought about Mrs. Fischer. I want to use my connections to benefit the whole department and essentially the whole school," said Percoco.

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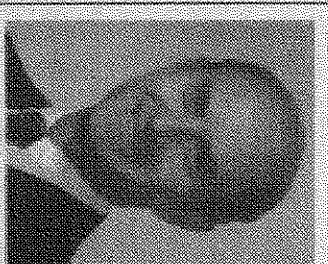


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Fischer poses on the grounds of the future memorial.

Fischer will not find out if she wins until late March. PBS taped her in the classroom, so judges will be able to see her in action. The tape also will be used as part of a video of teaching techniques for teachers around the country.

"If I had to rank the three most important things in my life it would be in this order: my marriage, the birth of my son and the Conference. The conference was definitely one of the highlights of my entire career," said Fischer.

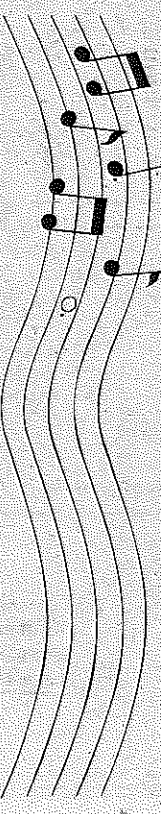
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WS houses first ever ASL Honor Society

By Jenn Carlson
Viewpoint Assistant

WS is now the home of the premier American Sign Language Honor Society. Not just in the state of Virginia, but first of its kind in the entire nation.

As far as the National Association of the Deaf and the American Sign Language Teacher's Association knows, no other school in the country has ever created such a society. According to ASL teacher, Meg Chojnacki, this is the perfect year to begin one.

"The reason I did start this year was because I have 13 students who are active and have nothing less than two A's and one B for the quarter," said Chojnacki.

Until now, the society has just been an idea, but this year the idea has become a reality in front of Chojnacki's eyes. The 13 charter members have set up the society from scratch. A constitution containing rules and regulations for the society was recently drawn up and approved by the county. Now the ASL Honor Society is

recognized as an official society throughout the county and WS.

"We had just gotten word back from the county so we could start to invite people," said Chojnacki. "We couldn't do that until we had been approved."

This year's induction ceremony was held on December 14 in Spartan Hall. The format for the ceremony is being borrowed from the French Honor Society and the Latin Honor Society. It is being written by Jull Jordan and Jason Lenzner.

While Chojnacki is busy organizing the honor society, fellow ASL teacher Sharon Bailey is organizing the ASL Club and its annual activities. The club as well as the society were formed to volunteer and spread awareness of American Sign Language.

Club members are busy tutoring ASL students and devoting time to working with special needs children at Washington Irving Middle School with the Eddie's Club program. The money from the



Amy Steed

These are just some of the ASL students that will be inducted into the society.

workshop will go towards scholarships for exceptional and/or enthusiastic ASL students. Last year, 10 scholarships for five hundred dollars were received by a pair of students.

For students in lower of ASL, the new honor society gives incentive to continue to work hard, although they have missed the chance to be apart of the first ASL Honor Society.

"I wish I could be apart of the Honor Society because I would want to be apart of history," said sophomore ASL student Mike Austin.

Community of Caring sets out to better WS

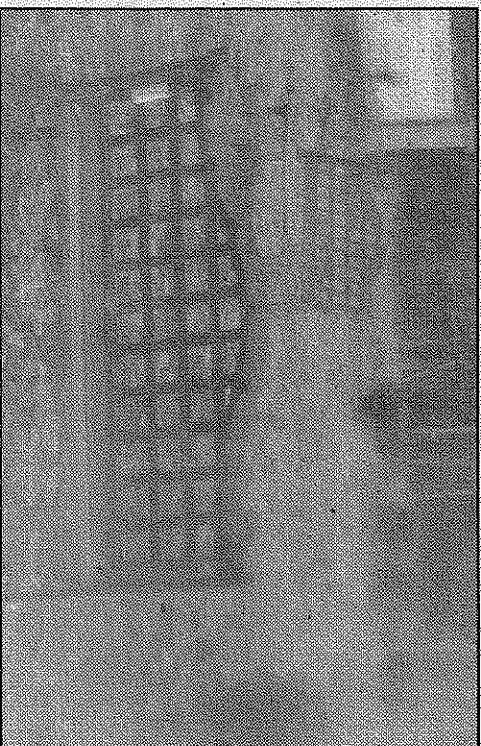
Theresa Rupp
Managing Editor

Caring about our school means a lot more than criticizing what is wrong and just talking about what we should do. WS has decided to take a step in the right direction when it comes to changing things for the better, and the Community of Caring club is doing just that.

Guidance counselor Ken Christopher came to WS this September, but he has already begun his quest to improve our school. Besides being the sponsor for the Skater's Club, Christopher is co-sponsor of the Community of Caring, along with Mary Halfhill. The goal of this club is to join with other clubs in WS, such as Tri-Hi-Y and PSAB, and work together with them to solve some of the persistent problems at our school.

"There are five universal values of the Community of Caring," said Christopher. "They are responsibility, respect, caring, trust, and family. We all make poor choices, but we can work with these five rules to change our behavior for the better."

A big issue lately at WS has been the conditions of the bathrooms. Actually, it has been a problem for a long time, but no one has really taken the initiative to do something



Bree Wrobleko

Last year the Community of Caring group worked to improve our school. Spartan Park was one of their major projects aimed at making WS more of a community. The club is now led by Ken Christopher.

about it. The Community of Caring, however, along with PSAB, is beginning the change. December, they are starting an "Adopt a Bathroom" program. All the details have not been worked out yet, but the basic idea is for different WS clubs to "adopt" a bathroom for a week or

members here at WS, but everyone is still welcome to come to the meetings and join. "There are over 2400 students at WS, and if more and more people begin to care, then more and more changes will start to happen," said Gonzales.

a month and clean it up. It models the "Adopt a Highway" program already in America.

Junior Elisa Gonzales recently joined the Community of Caring, and is glad that she did.

"Mrs. Jones asked me to join the Community of Caring as a representative of the Tri-Hi-Y club, which I am also currently in," said Gonzales. "At the first meeting, we talked about the bathroom idea, and also discussed putting up signs around the school to notify people of this club."

Gonzales also believes that by working with Christopher and Halfhill, the club will get a lot done this year due to their wonderful ideas.

The Community of Caring club is entering its second year at WS, but it is a nationally club founded by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation. Along with improving our school, the Community of Caring also participates in other community service activities such as helping out at soup kitchens. There are currently about 30

McKinney's car burns

On November 21 students thought they were in for a typical fire drill, some even stopped at their lockers before exiting the building, but once outside students realized there was actually a fire. Zion McKinney's Mazda RX7 had ignited after leaves under his car caught fire. The car was destroyed, but no one was hurt. "Now it is one of those things I get to add to my Christmas list," said McKinney.

WS student suffers shock

Just minutes before the school was notified of the car fire, a girl was shocked while doing a chemistry lab. She was not badly hurt but, "It was enough to scare her," said Dr. David Smith. Although she was not hurt, she did leave school to go see her family doctor. The piece of equipment she was using in the lab will no longer be used at WS.

WS Update

Football stadium vandalized

Blue and gold were the colors covering most of our fields after it was vandalized. This was the first act of this kind this year. It is thought that Lee students took part in the painting because blue and gold are their school colors, but officials are keeping an open mind because cover-ups are common. The mess was cleaned up by noon the next day. "This sort of thing happens every once in a while, usually once a year," said Dr. David Smith.

Music talent comes to WS

Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, from The Doobie Brothers, came to WS on November 29 along with musician Steely Dan. Baxter is a guitarist and gave a concert with students in jazz guitar classes. Dan talked to students about his music career.



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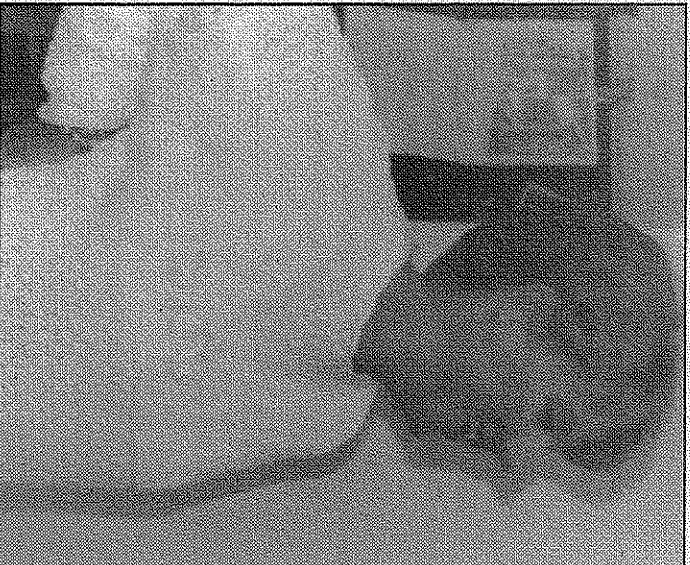
WS history teachers pack up for conference in CA

By Roberto Garcia

Production Editor

As the rest of the school spent a regular October weekend in Springfield, two of WS's history teachers traveled across the country to attend a national history conference in Sacramento, California.

From October 26 until October 29, AP US History teachers James Percoco and Margaret Mey



Margaret Mey accompanied Jim Percoco at the conference. *Lauren Sheffield*

attended the "History Matters: New Ideas in K-16 History Education" conference at the Sacramento Convention Center. At the conference, Percoco and Mey, along with Stanford University Professor Richard White, gave a presentation in front of more than 100 people titled "Creativity, Enrichment, and Diversity Opportunities in US History."

"We talked about what we do as history teachers, and about the broad range of people represented in US History," said Percoco.

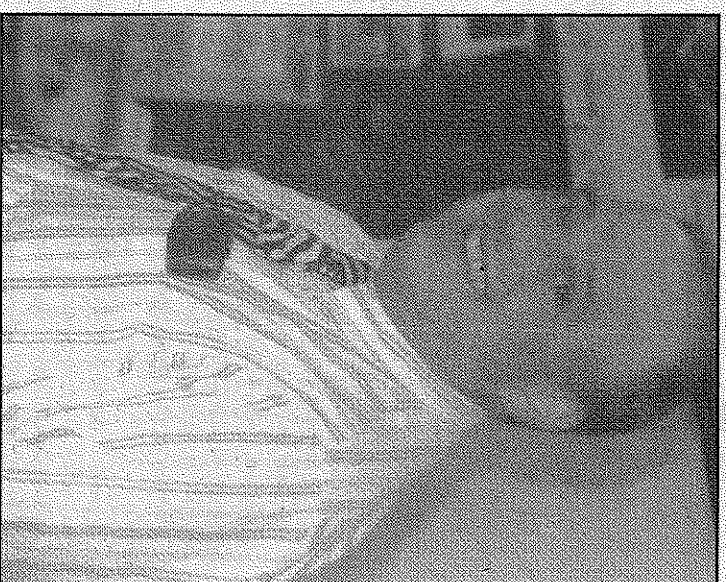
Percoco and Mey got the opportunity to work and speak with White, an acclaimed college professor. White is an award-winning historian and an expert on Native Americans. At the conference, he spoke about the connection between high school and college history classes.

"Dr. White talked about the similarities and differences of teaching in high school and college," said Mey.

Besides speaking at the conference, Percoco and Mey also sat in on several of the more than forty presentations given at the conference. Both of them attended "Herones, Heroes, and Heavies—Exciting Stories for the Classroom," a workshop presented by Bill White and Art Johnson from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Mey also heard a presentation entitled "Globalizing the Black Death," a workshop on teaching the effects of the black death.

However, the week's highlight was listening to Roger Mudd speak. Mudd, the host of the History Channel's prime time series "History Alive" and moderator of "The Great Minds of History" series, spoke about the importance of teaching as well as the relevance of history in everyday culture.

"Not only did we get to hear him [Mudd] speak,"



Mr. Percoco also attended the conference. *Lauren Sheffield*

said Mey, "Mr. Percoco and I also got to speak to him and have our pictures taken with him."

The conference, cosponsored by the California Department of Education and The Partnership for History Education, was attended by history teachers and professors from all parts of the nation. The goal of the conference was to emphasize the learning of history from childhood to college in four specific aspects: literacy and how to help students develop literacy in the social sciences, standards and frameworks and how to relate them to history, fair assessments that truly monitor the progress of knowledge, and the connections of history to teachers' individual missions.

"The conference definitely served as an educational experience," said Mey. "It gave us the chance to collaborate with many other people that work in the field of history."

Qu'est-ce que vous desirez? French Club starts cafe and other activities

By Amy McKeever

Inside Story Editor

Dozens of kids crowd together to sample fine French dining served by waiters in authentic French aprons and hats. However, the food they eat isn't foie de gras but rather crepes, croissants, juice, and hot chocolate, and the room they are crowded in is at WS.

This is a scene from the French Club's successful French Cafe, an event that they hope to make a monthly affair.

"The Cafe is really our big thing, and everyone seems to enjoy it," said French Club sponsor Laura Bruckmann.

The French Club is under new direction from Bruckmann, who came to WS this year after the retirement of Susan Lyon. Bruckmann teaches French levels two and three. Already this year the club has become more active and prominent in the WS community. The officers and Bruckmann have organized several new activities in order to raise awareness about French culture at WS.

"We want to make it possible to be known since no one really knew about the French Club last year," said junior and club president Arian Ahmadi.

To make the French Club more visible, not only did they host a French Cafe, they also attended the



From left, juniors Allison Byers, Ginger Clark, Jess Potter, Reeahn Romney have a bite at the French Cafe. *Laura Bruckmann*

sponsored the viewing of the French movie, "Le Chateau de Ma Mere", which unfortunately was not as successful as the Cafe. However, they are planning to watch another movie, entitled "La Haine" in December. The French Club usually meets on Thursdays.

Cummings hits a home run to college

By Julie Davis

ETC. Editor

Big Brother is watching senior Becky Cummings. Well, college recruiters anyway. Cummings has been playing softball for eleven years; she started at the age of six.

A major challenge for Cummings this fall is deciding which college will offer the best opportunities. She has had several offers.

"I've gotten several offers from colleges," said Cummings. "It is a bit nerve racking because you have to give 110% on and off the field."

Cummings not only has to keep in shape for softball, but has to keep her grades and social life in order.

"Recruiters watch to make sure you get along with your team, and you can't let your grades slip at all in

concert of a French singer and went to a French restaurant afterwards. They hope to repeat this activity sometime soon.

During National French Week, the club also

order to be eligible to play for NCAA."

Cummings was born September 1, 1983 in Colorado Springs, Co. She is an only child. She was turned on to softball by her basketball coach, who also coached softball. By the age of nine, she was playing for a select team.

"I can't remember a time when I wasn't playing softball," said Cummings. "It is different from a lot of other sports, because although you are a team, each position is very individual—my favorite position is catcher."

Sacrifice is a word in Cummings's vocabulary. She plays for three different teams throughout the year, besides the WS softball team.

"I play year around and practice three days a week

Many French Club members attribute the numerous activities of the club to Bruckmann.

"It's all Ms. Bruckmann; she does so much for the club," said junior Lucy Hutchinson. "She's incredible."

At the same time, Bruckmann does not hesitate to credit the club's officers with the sudden success of this year.

"The kids work really hard and come up with great ideas," said Bruckmann. "Their enthusiasm makes me very excited for the year."

The French Club's attempts to be known at WS seem to have worked. The foreign language department has been encouraged by the high attendance of the French Cafe and now hopes to put together a foreign language council of students to plan for the upcoming foreign language week.

"I think a lot of other foreign language clubs are being left out since we're so successful," said Ahmadi.

Still, these other clubs are pleased by the success that the French Club has met with this year.

"I think it's great that we have more than one French organization in the school," said French Honor Society president and senior May Kim. "This way anyone can participate in French-oriented activities."

and have tournaments every weekend," said Cummings.

However, all that hard work has paid off. She was recruited and accepted to her first choice college—ready to bat.

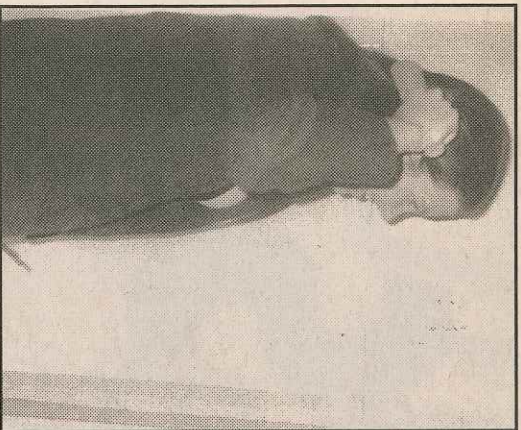
Senior Becky Cummings gets Barton College, in Wilson, NC.

Would Cummings trade her hectic life-style for a more simple one? It's not likely.

"I love softball, it's in my blood. I want to play in college, and that's my biggest goal. It's what keeps me going."



Senior Becky Cummings gets Barton College, in Wilson, NC. *Roberto Garcia*



Junior Allison Martin combs her hair.

HAIR



MaggieAtteberry

By Jennifer Schonberger
Features Editor

Blond or brunette. Mousse or gel. Blowdry or curl. The processes girls go through for their hair can be quite lengthy from the wet hair to the final product.

"I use Herbal Essence shampoo and styling products," said senior Becky Cummings. "First I towel dry, then I mousse, then I blow dry in sections, then I apply gel, and last I use the curling iron."

Besides using hair care products such as mousses and gels, some change their hair color.

"I change my hair color every week to whatever I'm in the mood for," said senior Lindsey Jorgenson. "Then I just stick some gel in it and pull it out to stick out. It doesn't take long at all."

With the competitive marketing nowadays alternatives have been created in place of mousse and gel to help the frizz factor. Many of these mousses and gels can be purchased at salons such as Bubbles or Vidal Sassoon.

"I use Biolage, which is an elixer," said senior Nicole Newcomb. "It also helps cut down the frizz."

From sponges to irons to hot rollers, girls use a variety of curling devices to get those bouncy curls.

"After I shower I let my hair air dry," said freshman Natilie Fuertes. "Then I put in hot curlers and hairspray it."

Although some spend hours on their hair, others don't take the time to hassle with their hair.

"Generally I don't do anything to my hair," said senior Erin Zoller. "After the shower I put it up or let it air dry down."

From the shower to the dryer the styles will always vary and the hair products will always enhance the final product.

"I use Loreal gel and mousse, round brushes and a hair dryer," said senior Suzanne Grant. "It takes forever!"

Boys VS.

By Matt Kaitz
Staff Assistant

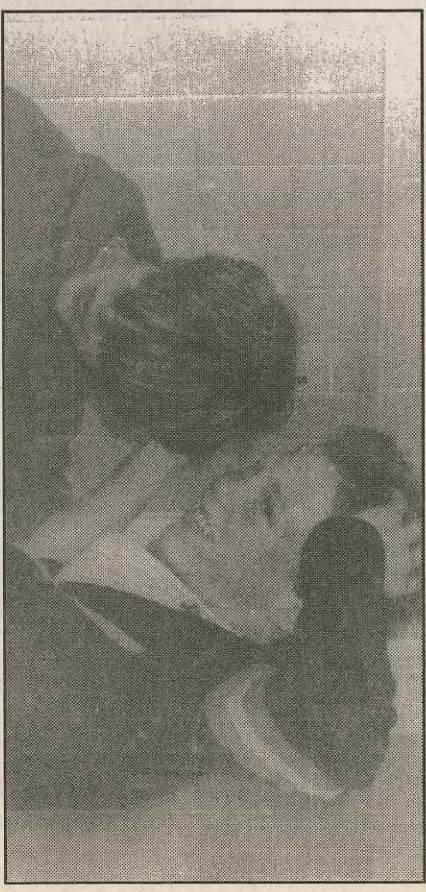
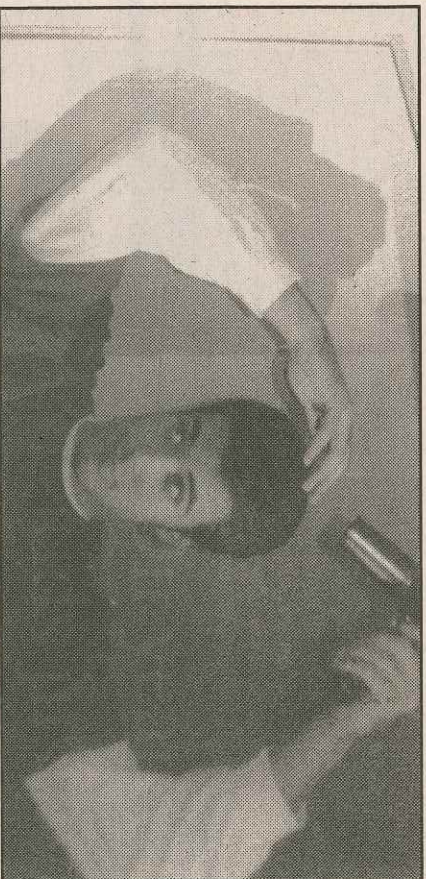
As junior David Chase walks down the hallways, he gets the occasional glance at his hair. The last time that he cut his hair was last March and now it is shaggy as ever.

"I really don't even touch my hair in the mornings before school nor do I really bother with it at all," said

Chase. "I don't understand why some people even bother fixing their hair. Mine looks just fine the way it is."

The truth is that guys either fix their hair or do not bother with it at all. For the guys who do fix their hair, various products are used to insure that their hair stays in place.

From hair gel to spray, it is not very expensive to keep hair looking stylish. Some of the types of gels used include Dep



The celebration of Kwanzaa is largely overlooked

A brief history of the African-American Kwanzaa holiday helps inform others

By Theresa Rupp
Managing Editor

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa. Or should you say Merry Kwanzaa? What about Good Kwanzaa? Most people don't even know what Kwanzaa is, much less know how to wish someone a nice one. Although this holiday is not extremely popular at WS, it is one that everyone should at least be aware of.

On December 26, 1966, scholar and activist Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga developed this African American celebration. He decided that Kwanzaa

should be based on five essential principles: 1) the gathering of family, friends, and community; 2) reverence for the creator and creation; 3) commemoration of the past; 4) recommitment of the highest cultural ideals of the African community; and 5) celebration of the "Good of Life", which is life, struggle, achievement, family, community, and culture.

"We don't really celebrate Kwanzaa in my family," said senior Brandi Cuffee. "But I do know a little bit about it and am proud of what it stands for."

Kwanzaa starts on the date Karenga

founded it, December 26, and lasts for another seven days until January 1. This holiday is centered around the family, home, and the African American community.

Along with a lot of dancing, poetry, and singing, a major Kwanzaan practice is lighting the mishumaa. Like the menorah during Hanukkah, one candle on the mishumaa (which means seven candles) is lit each day. The seven candles represent not only the number of days Kwanzaa lasts, but also the Nguzo Saba, or seven principles of Kwanzaa.

These seven principles are unity, self-

determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

The last day of Kwanzaa is reserved for reflection. Those who celebrate think about their culture and if they are worthy of their family and community. In a way, everyone does this when they reflect about their New Year's Resolutions.

Kwanzaa is a holiday that deserves to be just as respected and learned about as any other winter holiday. It's a shame that we don't care to really understand this African American celebration. So, Merry, Happy, Good Kwanzaa to everyone!



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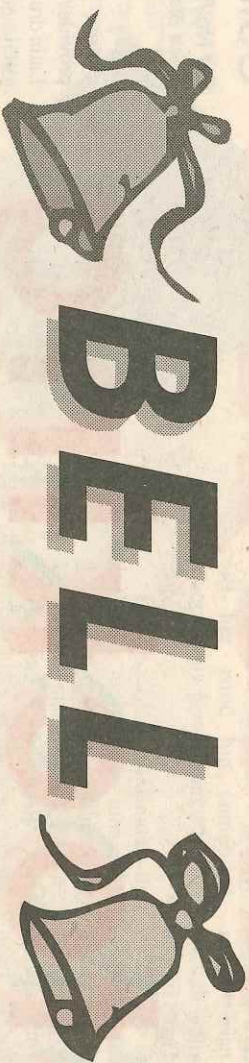
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Having trouble finding the perfect holiday gift? Compiled from the Top 10 lists of *Billboard*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Tower*, here are *Oracle's* TOP 10 Stocking Stuffers. From in your face Limp Bizkit to saucy Ricky Martin to the classic hits of the Beatles, we are confident that you will find a jingling beat for each of the people on your shopping list.

ORACLE'S TOP 10 Stocking

Stuffers

10. "All That You Can't Leave Behind" U2
 9. "Conspiracy of One" The Offspring
 8. "Black and Blue" Backstreet Boys
 7. "chocolate st*rfish and the hot dog flavored water" Limp Bizkit
 6. "Stankonia" Outkast
 5. "TP-2.Com" R. Kelly
 4. "Sound Loaded" Ricky Martin
 3. "Lovers Rock" Sade
 2. "Now 5: That's What I Call Music" 19
- Top Charts Hits
1. "1" The Beatles

10. U2: "All That You Can't Leave Behind."

Interscope Records.

By Amy McKeever
Inside Story Editor

Spanning three decades, U2 was made to last. This well-known Irish band was formed in the late '70s, had hit albums in the '80s and early '90s, and are now back again in 2000 with "All That You Can't Leave Behind".

Beginning with the hit single "Beautiful Day" and continuing on throughout the album, "All That You Can't Leave Behind" is more than deserving of its spot in the Billboard Chart. U2 mixes innovative music with introspective lyrics, written by lead man Bono, to create songs that are worth listening to twice. The tone of the album switches from musing to giddy within seconds thanks to the soaring melodies, strong vocals, and sometimes dark lyrics.

U2 is known for their political

activism and ties to religion. Recently, U2 collaborated with the Pope to support the Jubilee

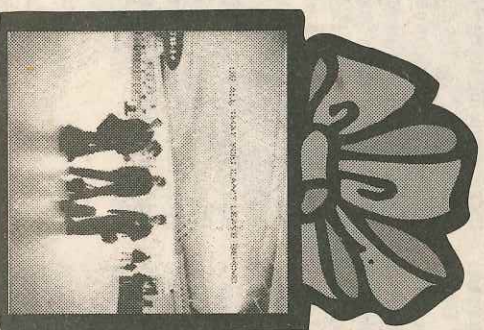
2000 Coalition and they have been fighting for years against war crimes. Their past albums

have been tinged with politics and religion, and this one is no exception. The song "Walk On", with touching and inspiring

lyrics, is dedicated to Aung San Suu Kyi, a Burmese political activist who was held under house arrest for six years. The most obvious religious song on

"All That You Can't Leave Behind" is called "Peace on Earth" and contrasts the idealism of the old Christmas song with the reality of today, while all along sending a plea for help.

While the eloquent lyrics of "All That You Can't Leave Behind" are the most prominent feature of the album, the lead guitar parts written by The Edge



in each of the 11 songs are all awe inspiring as well. "In A Little While" is one song in particular with a catchy lead guitar part. The Edge has proven himself over the years to be a talented guitarist and an excellent musician, along with his other bandmates. They give the album a kind of flow, which swells and ebbs throughout and concludes quietly with the song "Grace". I almost fell asleep during this song, not out of boredom but from the relaxing tones.

While it's probably not a CD you want to bring to a party, U2's new album is still something that you definitely can't leave behind.

9. The Offspring: "Conspiracy of One."

Columbia Records.

By Nikki Werking
Oracle Editor

The Offspring's latest album, "Conspiracy of One," probably won't have you "rockin' like Janet Reno," but you might find yourself singing along with its catchy tunes.

Three of the songs, "Come Out Swinging," "All Along," and "Conspiracy of One," incorporate the quick-paced, offbeat rhythm typical of the band. The beat, however, is all too familiar, so the songs sound like one sang with three different sets of lyrics.

Despite that, the album does have some sense of variety. Four of the songs have a distinctly different rhythm than the rest of the album. "Want You Bad" and "One Fine Day" are heavily influenced by the sounds of punk rock, while "Denial, Revisited" has a mellow style uncharacteristic of The Offspring. "Original Prankster" is also a unique song, with an almost synthetic rhythm and nonsensical lyrics.

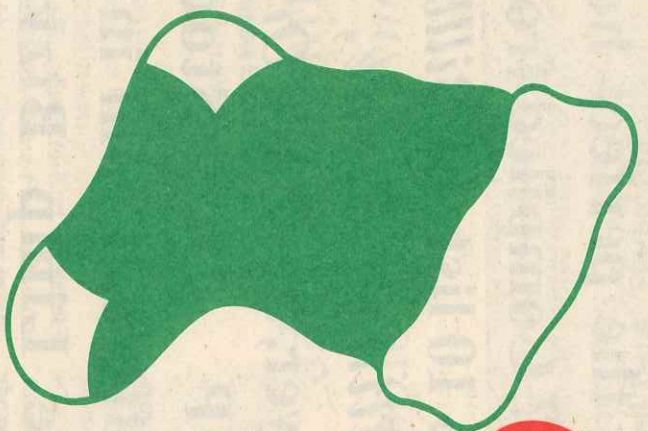


"Want You Bad" is the best song on the CD, with upbeat guitars and silly lyrics about corrupting good girls. "One Fine Day" also features a punk beat that contrasts its volatile lyrics. It's the happiest song I've ever heard about riots and destruction.

The Offspring shows its sensitive side with the much softer song "Denial, Revisited." It is centered on the ever-popular theme of lost love as a man regrets his breakup.

"Conspiracy of One," features the hit rock single, "Original Prankster." If you don't like the song, don't be discouraged because it is by far the worst one on the CD.

Overall, "Conspiracy of One" is a mediocre album, featuring both good and bad songs. If you've liked The Offspring in this past, it will probably be worth your money to buy this CD. If you're just a fan their latest single, "Original Prankster," you shouldn't buy the CD since it is a unique song to the band.



ORACLE'S stockking Stuffers

4. Ricky Martin "Sound Loaded" Columbia R

By Nayna Gupta
Inside Story Editor

Ricky Martin's newest album, "Sound Loaded," provides strong, fast-paced Latin drum beats, mixed with saucy and provocative lyrics. While this album is very similar to his first album, "Livin' La Vida Loca," the music is still catchy and fun to dance to. Because of similar sounds and rhythms, many of the songs blend together. For those who enjoy dancing and shaking, track number one, "She Bangs," is definitely the best song on the album. Another successful track, "Loaded" uses similar beats and sounds to make an entertaining song. Ricky also attempts to balance out these

8. Backstreet Boys: "Black and Blue." Jive Records.

By Maggie Atteberry
Photographer

Backstreet is back. All you Backstreet Boys fans can relax, the pop group came out with their third album, "Black&Blue", which was released on November 21.

After being away from the music scene for a while, some rumors began about the group splitting up. Wrong. Instead, the boys came back with a whole new look, and there is a difference in they way they sound.

Seven of the songs on this album were written by the band members themselves, showing that the boys are trying to move away from the boy band stereotype of pretty boys, that can move but hardly sing. No, they have not changed

completely. Do not worry, their tunes are still fun, and easy to dance to. There is an obvious incorporation of a Latin techno beat, for the fast songs, and a slight R&B feel for some of the slow songs.

This album has more slow songs than some may expect. While listening to the lyrics and melody of most of the slower songs, I could tell that there is more maturity in the meaning of the lyrics which may appeal and attract more older listeners, and not just the the stereotypical teenie popper.

The best thing about this album is that there is something in it for all ages, including some unexpected rhythms that can make even the most anti Backstreet person, bob their head.



7. Limp Bizkit: "Chocolate Starfish and the hot dog flavored water." Interscope Records.

By Matt Kaletz
Staff Assistant

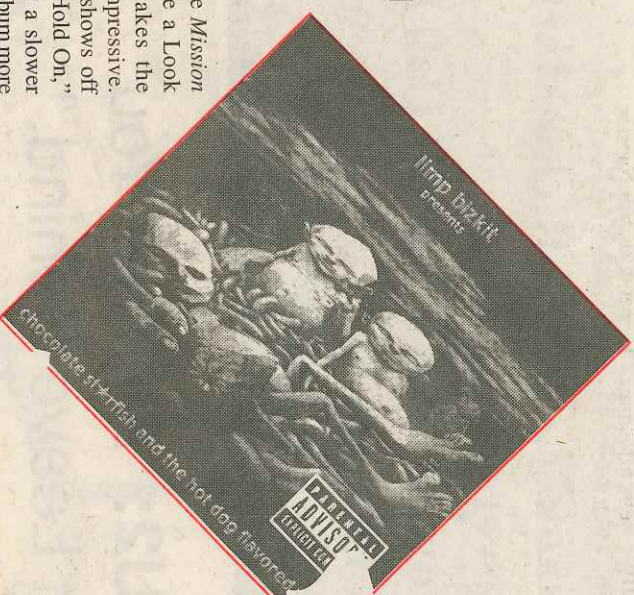
The album's title, "The Chocolate Starfish and the Hot Dog Flavored Water", may not sound entertaining, but this album is anything but boring. Limp Bizkit brings a little bit of everything to the table in "The Chocolate Starfish," including very impressive vocals from lead singer Fred Durst. Limp Bizkit's rock/rap singing style give the album a unique voice

and also expands their fan base. In "Getcha Groove On," Durst is joined by rapper Ezbit, who give the song a very distinctive sound. Also, in "Rollin' (Urban Assault Vehicle)," popular rappers Method Man of Wu-Tang, Redman, and DMX

combine their persuasive rhymes with Durst's excellent singing ability to make for a catchy beat that stays in your head for hours. "The Chocolate Starfish" also features the

theme from the movie *Mission Impossible 2*, "Take a Look Around," which makes the album even more impressive.

Finally, Durst really shows off his vocal ability in "Hold On," in which he sings to a slower beat which gives the album more variety, rather than Limp Bizkit's traditional faster beats. Bottom line, Limp Bizkit really gives its audience something to enjoy and listen to over and over again.



6. Outkast: "Stankonia." Arista Records

By Joey Tinsley
Staff Assistant

Andre and Big Boi have done it again. These two rappers out of Atlanta, Georgia have successfully released a follow up album to their last hit album "Aquemini."

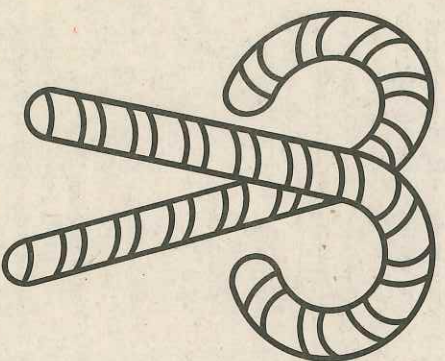
Headed by "Ms. Jackson" and "B.O.B." Outkast's new album "Stankonia" has surged into the Billboard Top Ten Chart. This 24 track CD is the fourth album they have released and the first in two years since "Aquemini" which also

made its way on to the Billboard Top Ten Chart.

Although I do not think that this album is as good as their last album I would still give this one a very high rating. The thing that I like most about Outkast is the type of beats they create and the way their voices go so well together. They sound similar, but different enough that I can tell them apart. Another big reason I like Outkast is that they create a wide variety of rap with help from other rappers. Not including

themselves 14 other rap artists are featured throughout the CD which gives every song its own individuality.

The only thing that does not excite me too much about this album is that there are too many skits on the CD. Outkast has already put out a few good albums, and they are destined for a few more as long as they keep coming up with, "new flows and flava's," and, "bust your [stuff] open beats," as they said in "Aquemini."



3. Sade: "Lovers Rock" Epic Records

By Melissa Lipman
Entertainment Editor

Martin:
ded."
records.

faster paced songs with
slower love ballads like
"Come to Me" and "By Your
Touch." Unfortunately,
instead of adding substance,
these songs make the album
seem a bit corny.

Similar to his first album,
Ricky chooses his better
tracks and performs them in
Spanish too. Rather than
producing a separate Spanish
album, he mixes the two
cultures on one, having tracks
like "She Bangs" and
"Loaded" performed twice.
While this can be a bit
repetitive, it shows that he his
able to blend his Latino roots
with his American pop hits.
"Sound Loaded" is a great
holiday present for someone
interested in easy-to-shake-to
beats, not someone looking
for substance.

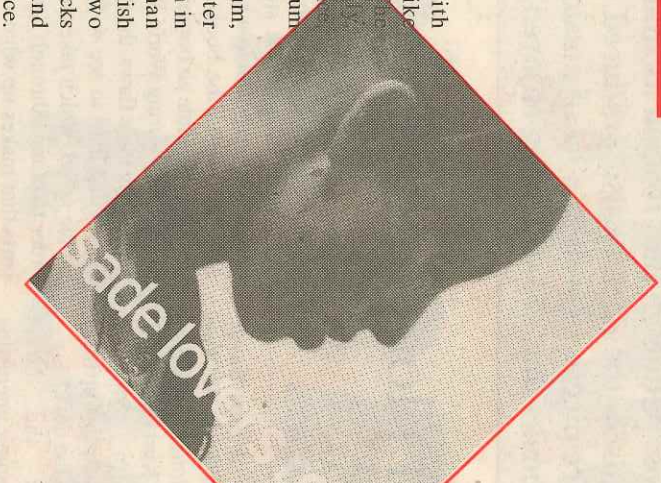
5. R.Kelly: "TP 2.com." Jive records.

By Joey Tinsley
Staff Assistant

After years of being in the
music business, R. Kelly is
still trying to "keep it real" by
releasing a new album to go
with his new corn rows.

R. Kelly's fifth album en-
titled "TP-.com" is not worth
paying full price for. While
listening to this album, I found
every song to sound alike. Be-
sides repeatedly describing
the same situations over and
over, he uses similar beats and
rhythm for every song.

This album features R.
Kelly's new hit song, "I
Wish", which always seems to
be on the radio whenever I
tune into WPGC 95.5 and
93.9 WKYS. This song is the
only reason I could come up
with that this album would



Sade's smooth sounds and voice
fill her good but somewhat
monotonous new album, "Lovers
Rock."

The record is dominated by
decidedly melancholy tunes and
lyrics of pain and love. Sometimes
even her happier lyrics are lost due
to the sad and mostly slow
instrumentals. Still, none of the
songs are truly dark, most of her
lyrics show a positive outlook and a
painful past.

In "If's Only Love That Gets You
Through," Sade sings, "Girl you are
rich/ even with nothing/ You know
tenderness comes from pain." On the
whole, her words are deep and

meaningful, a pleasant contrast to
much of today's empty pop.

Sade's voice is another plus for
the album; her voice is marked by a
rich Nigerian accent and a strong,
smooth sound. Her vocals lend a
soulful edge to the words.

Though she uses many unique
instruments on the album, including
a harp and African drums, several
of the songs have similar beats and
sounds. The keyboards, which are
used frequently, create a
homogenous, synthetic sound that
tends to drag after a while.

Although the first single from the
album is "By Your Side," a happy
love song, the best tracks on the
album are "Slave Song," "The
Sweetest Gift," and "Immigrant."
"Slave Song" is a more powerful

track about hope and pain. She says,
"I've been a slave/ but reach for the/
light continually."

"The Sweetest Gift" is a simple
song; only an acoustic guitar
accompanies Sade's voice, but it
provides a needed contrast from
keyboard arrangements.
"Immigrant" also adds to the mix,
the African drums and urban beat are
a good change.

Sade has put out six previous
albums, including one of her
greatest hits. Additionally, she
wrote, produced, performed and
arranged the tracks on this new
album.

"Lovers Rock" is overall a good
album, but it would get a needed
boost from more tracks with richer
instruments instead of keyboards
and drum loops.



ever make it on to the Bill-
board Top Ten List. "I Wish"
is the only song that has been
released as a single off of this
album so far, and it is the only
song that is even worth releas-
ing.

"I Wish" is not a bad song,
but I still do not see why
people would go out and buy
a CD just because they like
one song. It makes me won-
der why someone would
spend about 12 dollars to ba-
sically buy one song that they
like, especially when there are
other less expensive ways to
get it, such as Napster.

Maybe I am missing some-
thing here, or maybe I am just
not "down" with R&B, but I
would not buy this album
myself or recommend it as a
holiday gift.

2. "Now 5: That's What I Call Music."

By Russ Waddell
Photographer

It's quite possible that "Now That's
What I Call Music 5" is the result of a
fleeting love affair between MTV's
Total Request Live and the popular radio
station Z104.

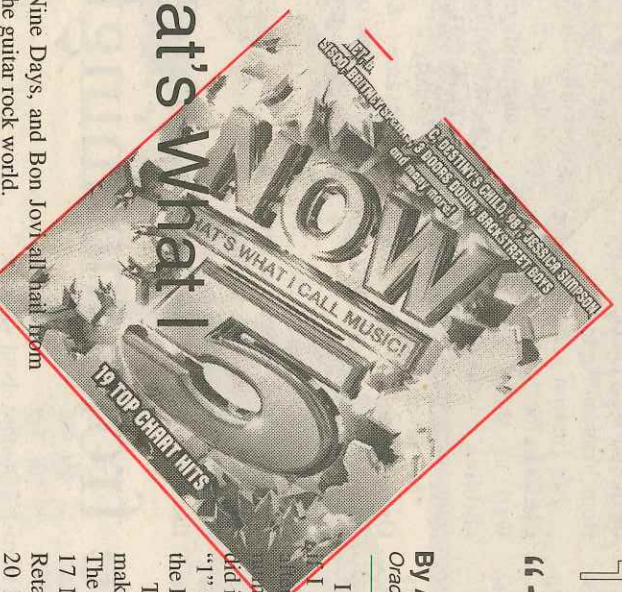
The star-studded compilation
includes artists ranging from rap giant
Mystikal to pop icon Britney Spears to
prepubescent white rapper Aaron Carter.
Popular female artists dominate the
lineup, with songs by Destiny's Child,
Jessica Simpson, Mya, Mandy Moore,
Janet, and Kandii. Boy bands also make
a strong showing. Backstreet Boys,
*NSYNC, 98 Degrees, and
Souldecision.

Not all of the music is sugar sweet,
teeny-bopper ear candy. Mystikal and
Sisqo represent the urban scene, while
Three Doors Down, Everclear, BBMak,

Nine Days, and Bon Jovi all hail from
the guitar rock world.

"Now 5" has a wide variety of styles,
but the best songs are buried in the
cookie-cutter songs of Britney Spears and
other teen idols. Rock fans will be
unwilling to sit through *NSYNC just to
hear Bon Jovi's "It's My Life" while rap
lovers probably not want anything to do
with Mandy Moore or BBMak just to
hear Mystikal's "Shake It Fast."

In a nutshell, "Now That's What I Call
Music 5" is an hour and fifteen minutes
in popular music heaven, but you should
stay away if pop isn't your thing. Most
of the songs will be history in four
months when "Now 6" hits the shelves,
but right at the moment all the songs on
"Now 5" are chart-toppers and all the
artists are superstars. Even if you're not
interested in getting "Now 5," it might
be a nice stocking stuffer for your ten-
year-old sister.



1. The Beatles: "1." EMI Records.

By Amy Whipple
Oracle Editor

I do believe in yesterday even
if I was never there. 37 years
after the first Beatles' song hit
number one on the charts, they
did it again with the new album
"1" debuting at the top spot on
the Billboard charts.

Twenty-seven No. 1 songs
make up the newly released CD.
The compilation came from the
17 No. 1 hits on the Record
Retailer chart in the UK and the
20 No. 1 singles from the
Billboard chart in the USA. I'd
like to see any modern artist have
27 No. 1 songs that are still
popular in 30 years.

I have to admit that I am
borderline between impressed
and disappointed with this CD.
I've been a Beatles' fan for as
long as I can remember, so it's
nice to have one CD with so
many good songs. The problem
is that my two favorite songs
"Here Comes the Sun" and
"Strawberry Fields Forever" are
not included. I can't imagine
how they never wound up in the
number one spot on either chart
back in the 1960s. I also would
have never guessed that songs
such as "Day Tripper" and
"Paperback Writer" made it as

far as they did.

Bit since I'm reviewing the
CD, I had to listen to the whole
thing anyway. After I checked
the cover for subliminal
messages, which I think there
may be, I put it in and was taken
back to the days of the 1960s.

The songs are upbeat and
very similar sounding
throughout almost the entire CD.
The variety of their other songs
would make the album soar, but
then it wouldn't be "1" anymore
would it?

At the end I pressed repeat
to try it all over again. This
happened quickly because, with
the exception "Hey Jude" and
"Come Together," all the songs
are under four minutes long.
Most are closer to two and a half
minutes because of the original
structure of their albums.

Another plus is that, unlike
modern music, I know exactly
what they are saying. I also
don't have to worry about my 8-
year-old sister walking into the
room and learning vocabulary
words she shouldn't know.

Overall, I say go get the CD,
but don't rush since it's nothing
new. This is a great opportunity
to revisit the past, and along the
way make a few new friends.



Tired of pretty boy bands, perky pop stars, and endless holiday movies? Step back in time to 1970, a different time and a break from angry rappers and over-hyped products of corporate

1970

studios. Although the '70s had its share of pop and disco, the decade also produced counter-culture pieces, as well as a lot of music, movies and books that are still being enjoyed today.

House pushes ardent antiwar message

By Melissa Lipman
Entertainment Editor

"It was war that made her so angry. She didn't want her babies or anybody else's babies killed in wars."

The first chapter of Kurt Vonnegut's novel, *Slaughter-House-Five*, is an introduction describing his motivation in writing the book. The above quote is from an anecdote he tells of a visit with one of his fellow veterans from World War II (WWII) and his wife. Vonnegut makes clear both to the wife and the reader that this book is not about to glorify any wars.

Published in 1969, *Slaughter-House-Five* is one of the three best antiwar books ever written, ranking with *Catch 22* and *Johnny Got His Gun*. Vonnegut clearly portrays the horror of all wars through poignant scenes. His tone of ironic indifference gives the story a more understated message.

The book tells of the travels of one aptly-named Billy Pilgrim. "Billy Pilgrim has come unstuck in time," thus enabling Vonnegut to flip back and forth, contrasting many of his own memories from WWII with fantasies of Pilgrim being placed in an alien zoo with a beautiful woman (the

aliens hope that the two will mate, just as human scientists often aspire to match up creatures taken from the wild).

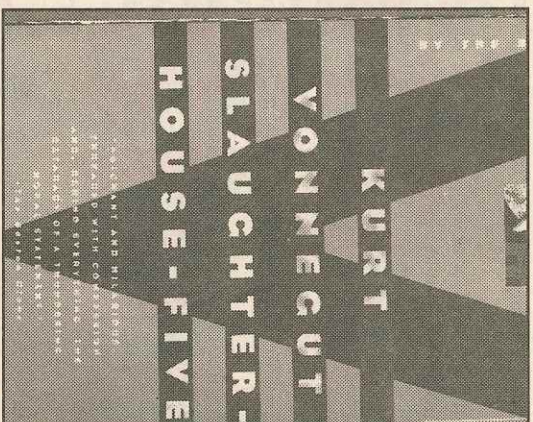
Though there are scenes of the bombing of Dresden, some of the most effective ones take place in the aftermath of the battles.

Billy Pilgrim is a perfectly constructed character. Vonnegut has made him into such a typical American that no reader could not identify with him.

Pilgrim is an optometrist in his life after WWII. He's married to a homely woman. He has no particular religion nor creed.

It seems as though everything in his life happens to him, and he moves haplessly through his life, quietly reflecting on the events.

The book, in addition to being a social criticism like many of Vonnegut's writings, is a perfect testament to the horror of war.



By Mike Arai
Sports Assistant

A tale of time travel, aliens, and World War Two told in *Slaughter-House-Five*, by Kurt Vonnegut, written in 1969, is tremendously dull up to the middle of the novel.

While the novel contains some interesting concepts, it also is repetitive, vapid in most parts, and confusing.

The basic plot of the story is about Bill Pilgrim, who becomes, "unstuck in time," or has the ability to travel to his past, present, and future. Because of this, the author skips back and forth between parts of different stories within the main story. This causes the novel to be confusing, skipping from one year to another and one story to another abruptly.

Vonnegut also has the narrator repeat some phrases for an endless amount of time, such as, "so it goes," every single time death, or a reference to it, occurs, which is about at least once a page.

However, while the book has some bad writing, some of Vonnegut's story is very entertaining such as when Billy is abducted by Tralfamadorians, an alien species from

'Sesame Street' teaches toddlers at home

By Nikki Werking
Oracle Editor

It's amazing how much kids can learn from a bunch of fuzzy puppets.

The favorite children's show "Sesame Street" first aired on

November 10, 1969 as an experiment in education. The intent of the program was to help toddlers develop confidence with the alphabet, numbers, and pro-social skills before entering preschool.

One not-so-well-known fact of the show is how it got the name "Sesame Street." The show's writers wanted the name to

connote adventure and excitement. One of them came up with the name when he thought of the phrase "Open Sesame!" from "Arabian Nights."

Jim Henson created all the characters for "Sesame Street," as well as those for another children's favorite, "The Muppets."

Oscar never seem to be happy, other residents of Sesame Street always know how to have a good time.

"Snuffalufagus was the best," said junior Matt Oster. "He knew how to party."

"My favorite character was Oscar because he was always grumpy," said freshman Megan Barnwell.

The furry monsters of "Sesame Street" display a wide range of quirky personalities, from the fastidiously neat Bert to the ever-curious Elmo. While



Ernie and Elmo, two favorite Sesame Street characters, sing together.

Music lyrics evolve from meaningful to violent

By Jen Schonberger
Features Editor

Jump back to a time when, according to The Beatles, all you needed was love. Fastforward a few years and we're still talking about the same topic of love, but not the kind of love The Beatles were talking about.

The Beatles wrote that song in response to the Vietnam War because they wanted peace. During the 60s and 70s, many song writers got their ideas for lyrics from current events.

For example, the song "Ohio" by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, described the shooting of four students during anti-war demonstrations at Kent State University. In the year 2000, song writers are still focusing on current events, but not as much.

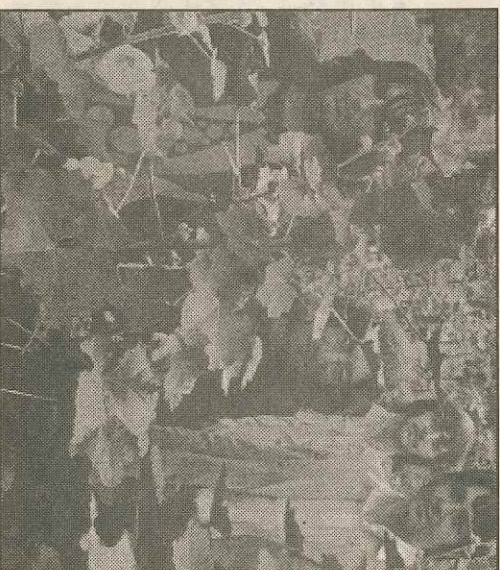
"Back in the 60s and 70s music revolved more around social commentaries and current events," said senior Lindsey Shaddrix, "however, some songs still do today."

Music has changed from the 60s and 70s in that it has become more violent. Songs such as Eminem's "The Real Slim Shady" and "Stan" contain foul language and graphic lyrics that promote the ideas of violence.

"Music has changed from the 60s and 70s," said senior

David Harris, "It's more about violence."

While some think violence has changed the face of music, others feel music is still influenced by current events.



The Beatles were the biggest group to create music with a social message during the 1970s.

Dull plot confuses readers

By Mike Arai
Sports Assistant

A tale of time travel, aliens, and World War Two told in *Slaughter-House-Five*, by Kurt Vonnegut, written in 1969, is tremendously dull up to the middle of the novel.

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Vonnegut also has the narrator repeat some phrases for an endless amount of time, such as, "so it goes," every single time death, or a reference to it, occurs, which is about at least once a page.

However, while the book has some bad writing, some of Vonnegut's story is very entertaining such as when Billy is abducted by Tralfamadorians, an alien species from

a far-way and rather different galaxy.

However, this story is also split up with other parts of different stories that are completely irrelevant to what the narrator says the reason the book is written: to describe a horrible air bombing of Dresden in Germany during World War II.

Among these flaws, the theme is poorly shown and hard to see without reflecting on the novel, which takes a lot of time in order to plunge through the frequent dull parts that makes up what seems to be 40 percent of the stories. Despite this, Vonnegut still tries to nail the theme home, further adding to the confusion.

While the plot is atrocious and dull, the setting and its description is fantastic. Because the stories all involve time travel, there are three distinguished settings at different times in the novel: Germany during World War II; Tralfamadore, the home planet of the aliens; and Illum when Billy is an old man. What makes these settings so good is the lively description of the places using powerful and imaginative imagery.

Slaughterhouse Five is not an action-packed novel with a suspenseful plot, but rather a waste of time. How a book this uninteresting ever won any awards is beyond me because this 215 page novel is only good at describing places, and maybe as a paperweight.



television in the 1980s, leading to an influx in toys based on the show. WS students still cherish these relics from their childhood.

"I love the Cookie Monster toy because it has googly eyes," said senior Sarah Holm. "When you shake him, the insides of his eyes rattle."

"I think today's music continues to reflect current events in society whether it's rap or rock," said assistant principal Joan Galdi. "I will listen to music whether I can relate to the words or not."

With the continuing violence in music, some of the lyrics can be offensive to listeners. Some students listen for the lyrics, some for the beat, and others for the whole package.

"Nowadays songs do not focus so much on specific events, but rather it's the general feel of society," said senior May Kim. "If the lyrics are offensive then I won't listen to them."

While some of the music today is offensive to some, it is not for others.

"I listen to the lyrics whether they are offensive or not," said freshman Patrick Emriget.

From the age of the flower children and hippies to the age where everything goes, music has evolved and will continue to.

"For the most part music is not based quite as much on current events," said senior Matt Nelson. "The quality of the music, which has to do with the beat, is what I listen for. Good lyrics are just a bonus."

Shallow stars replace legends

By Angela Florino
ETC. Editor

In the '70s, people grooved to the sounds of hit songs by TV show families. Since then times have changed and pop stars such as the Backstreet Boys, #N Sync and Britney Spears have taken the fame and left the TV families in the dust.

"I enjoyed watching the 'Brady Bunch' and the 'Partridge Family' reruns when I was a kid," said senior Anne Marie Evans. "Nowadays it seems like all the boy bands have taken the spotlight from the '70s popular TV personalities."

On December 8, 1970, the "Partridge Family" had the number one song, "I think I Love You," on WABC a radio station in New York. They were also the most popular show on television and were watched all across of America.

Since then, most of the family oriented shows that took over television and radios throughout the country have been replaced by the pop sensations of today. However there are rare breeds of these family TV shows left such as "7th Heaven," "Full House," and "Family Matters." These shows did not produce ratings as high as those reached by the "Partridge Family" and the

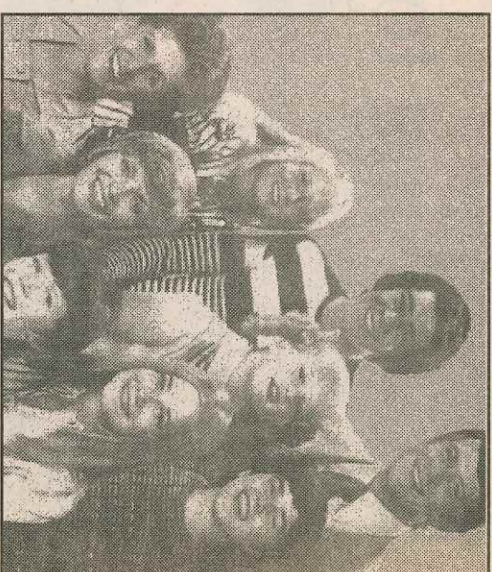
"Brady Bunch" and these new shows do not have hit singles to help boost their popularity either.

Possibly the closest thing to the "Partridge Family" that America has come would be "2gether," the comedy portraying a "family" of teenage boys struggling through the difficulties of being in a boy band. This show produced a hit single titled "I Know My Calculus," which appeared on MTV's Total Request Live.

"2gether" cannot really be compared to the "Brady Bunch" or the "Partridge Family" because it isn't really a family show," said sophomore Alex Grillo. "'The Brady Bunch' and 'Partridge Family' were watched by people of all ages and the songs became the favorites of the kids that are today's adults."

Another point of view that can be taken by today's television watchers could be the sex appeal in these new boy bands compared to that of the '70s "Partridge Family." The clean lyrics that were sung by David Cassidy and were stuck in the heads of the younger generation during the '70s.

Back then the fresh faces of these characters were stuck on lunch boxes and back packs of all the kids in elementary school. The teenagers during this time did their best to be Marsha Brady by emulating her styles. Today the boy bands and popular girl singers have



"The Brady Bunch" was one of the most popular family sitcoms during the 1970s.

taken over the lunch boxes and set trends for the young generation of today and the lyrics of these artists are definitely not as clean as those sung by Cassidy.

"The difference in my opinion is the glamour," said counselor Laurie Phelps. "The glamour was very positive back then and the bands actually sang. Today the message sent out by rap groups as well as boy bands is all related to appearance and how hot they look. The TV shows and groups were definitely more wholesome back then and things have really changed."

'Knowledge' creates crude images

By Jen Berne
Weekend Assistant

Deranged, controversial, and horrifying. These are a few of the words I would use to describe the 1970 Academy Award nominated film "Carnal Knowledge."

The cast consisted of a few recognizable names, including Jack Nicholson, Ann Margret, and Candace Bergen.

I thought it was time for a change. So indefinitely, I volunteered to review an older movie from the 70's. I now realize that change is not always better. This movie solely revolved around sex.

Nicholson plays a neurotic sex addict who will betray his own identity just to get the girl. Of course, the eccentric girls in this movie seemed to fall for it every time.

This movie has virtually no plot. This problem is caused mainly because the film's characters were too busy having various sexual relations to say anything relatively interesting or worthwhile.

Overall, women were portrayed as nothing but sex objects who simply wanted a

house, husband, and three kids to be happy. For some reason it was also acceptable for a husband to cheat on his wife; as she simply kept on raising the children.

This was appalling because life wasn't like that for the majority of the people in the 70's.

And it's most definitely not that way today, especially for women. Today women have respectable jobs as they still find a way to run a household. I don't think this movie was well done at all. It dragged on and on because the mood of the piece never changed.

The constant subject pertained to nothing but sexual activity. As the plot dwindled, so did my concentration.

The only reason why this film was popular must have pertained to the controversy it stirred up and the incredibly grown up subject matter it had.

I really don't think that you should waste your time on a horrible, crude movie like this when you can merely watch the same type of movie from present day times with a much better plot.



"A Clockwork Orange" is a counterculture movie about government corruption.

The last quarter of an hour finally conveys the message director Stanley Kubrick seems to be trying to send: The government is corrupt.

Then a wonderful thing happens: A plot seems to be taking shape. Alex is selected for a "program." The "program" is a special treatment, and if Alex successfully completes it he will be out of prison in two weeks.

But alas, this is another dead end until the last 15 minutes of the film.

no plot even an hour into the film. It's just Alex and his gang of three running around assaulting and raping people in outlying houses.

Finally, there seems to be a hint of a plot when Alex's gang betrays him and Alex is convicted of murder.

The movie is very slow from this point on. It takes Alex five minutes to check into prison.

Then a wonderful thing happens: A plot seems to be taking shape. Alex is selected for a "program." The "program" is a special treatment, and if Alex successfully completes it he will be out of prison in two weeks.

But alas, this is another dead end until the last 15 minutes of the film.

Meaningful messages measure up to nonsense of Seuss

By Laura Robinson
News Editor

Sheetches, mooses, eggs and Seusses. Though seemingly unrelated, the late Dr. Seuss managed to write about them all in his fun nonsensical poetry. Seuss' books are also packed by powerful social messages.

In his book *Bartholomew and the*

Oobleck, Seuss writes about the beauty of nature through the experiences of Bartholomew and King Derwin of Didd.

The Lorax, written in 1971, is another Seuss book with an important lesson. Through its child-like message, Seuss stresses to children the importance of conservation. The books also entertain children and have fun rhyme schemes.

teaching various lessons without anyone realizing they're being taught.

"I love Dr. Seuss because some of the rhymes he writes are so stupid they're funny," said sophomore Anna Kapuscinski.

In the 1969 work, *Snetches and Other Stories*, the *Snetches* tackle an even weightier topic—racism.

"All of his books have important messages that every

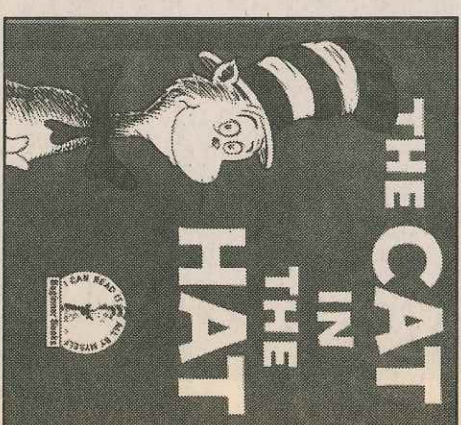
kid and every person should know," said junior Chris Villavicencio.

Seuss began to write children's books in the '30s and became an instant celebrity in 1954 with the publication of the *Cat in the Hat*. In his lifetime, he wrote more than 50 books and received the Pulitzer Prize for all his works. He died in 1991 as the bestselling children's author of all time.

His most famous works include *Horton Hatches the Egg*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*.

Seuss realized that his job was to entertain children and encourage them to read and have fun.

"I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells," said Seuss in 1967. "Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living; it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope, which is what I do, and that enables you to laugh at life's realities." Seuss will live on for decades for his



The Cat in the Hat is one of Seuss' classic books

entertaining books and the messages they carried.

"He's the greatest. *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Cat in the Hat*, *The Grinch*—those are classics," said senior Scott Kramer.



The Lorax is one of Seuss' socially conscious pieces.

Resort-ing to the best places in snow sports

Winter is the season for snow sports. Whether you enjoy skiing, snowboarding, or snowmobiling, the opportunities for snow sports in this area are plentiful.

Seven Springs Mountain Resort, located in Champion, Pennsylvania, includes the features of a real resort, outside skiing and snowboarding. These features include the Bear Trap Game Room, a bowling center, a roller skating rink, swimming pools, a fitness room, miniature golf, and sleigh rides. It also offers additional services such as baby-sitting and church services, as well as a laundromat. Entertainment, such as singer and bands, can be found in one of the resort's lounges. Seven Springs can be contacted for reservations at 1-800-452-2223.

Snowshoe Mountain Resort, located in Snowshow, West Virginia, sits among an active village and novice trails that are known as the Northern Tract, snowmobile tours, and dog sledding. It also keeps a calendar of back-to-back events, including College Week from Jan. 1 to Jan. 7, which includes parties and live entertainment, and the Salomon Oasis Tour from Jan. 28 to Jan. 29, in which Salomon brings their latest equipment to test out, and pro-skiers and snowboarders come to offer tips to resort guests. Snowshoe is a large, country resort that stays extremely active all winter. Snowshoe Mountain can be contacted 304-572-1000 or by email at info@snowshoemtn.com.

Bryce Resort, located in the Shenandoah Valley between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains, is a resort mostly known for its golf course, but towards the winter season, it switches its attention to the ski course. It offers an excellent professional ski

school, along with a first time skiers/snowboarders clinics, racing clinics, and

improvement clinics for adults and juniors. For more information, email resort officials at skinfo@bryceresort.com or contact them by phone at 1-800-821-1444.

Whitetail Resort in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania celebrates its ten-year anniversary this season. A resort extremely focused on skiing, it offers a huge variety



of programs, including the "Ski with me" program in which a parent and child get specialized instruction together, the "Adaptive skiing" program which

21, and College Nights. For reservations contact Whitetail by email at sales@skitwhitetail.com, or by phone at 717-328-9400.

Timberlake Ski Resort resides in the Alpine Valley, which is located in Canaan Valley, West Virginia. Known for abundant natural snowfall, Timberline area is called West Virginia Snow Country and skiing conditions on the 35 available trails are consistently excellent. From Jan. 2 to Jan. 5, it will host a College Ski Break, followed by NATO Telemark Workshops from Jan. 20 to Jan. 21. Other events include frequent and multiple ski/snowboard competitions, as well as the Norpine Festival 2001 from Feb. 24 to Feb. 25. For more information, contact Timberline by phone at 1-800-SNOWING.

Massanutten Resort, located near Harrisonburg, Virginia, boasts the highest vertical drop in all of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Massanutten offers an incredible quantity and variety of activities such as a snow tubing park, a skate park, crafts, tours of the area from historical sights to the nearby Shenandoah Caverns, live entertainment, fitness and spa programs, and child care services. It also hosts lots of things to do, including mountain biking, fishing, scuba diving, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, river tubing, and horseback riding. An activity card can be purchased which offers over 25 free or reduced price activities for one low price. Massanutten can be contacted at 1-800-207-MASS.

*—Compiled by
Jenny Braudaway*

Reston brightens holidays

By Katie Walker
Production Editor

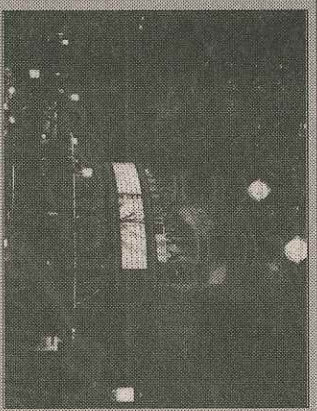
Despite living near DC, one of the biggest tourist traps in America, residents of Springfield are always looking for something to do. They end up going to the same mall, the same stores, and seeing the same sites. About 40 minutes from Springfield, Reston Town Center offers a break from the weekend routine.

Reston Town Center is upscale and has a different atmosphere than the typical malls in this area. With its European architecture and large square decorated with a fountain and flowers, the feeling is more relaxed than commercialized.

Reston Town Center offers the usual shops: Gap, Sam Goody, and others. On the more unusual side, this mall has its own hotel, a 14-story Hyatt Regency.

The restaurants cover every cuisine across the board, from Chinese to Italian to classic American hamburgers. Visitors even have the chance to eat at a seafood restaurant or go to a shop for some home-made ice cream. Many of these meals can be enjoyed at an outdoor cafe.

Two of the biggest attractions at Reston Town Center are a 13-screen cinema and an outdoor skating pavilion. The skating rink is open from November un-



Jen Berne

People stand outside the movie theatre as they wait for their feature.

til mid-March and costs \$6.50 admission for adults. The pavilion will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 P.M. on Christmas Eve, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on New Year's Day. For the holidays, from now until December 24, Reston Town Center will have Santa's Magic Castle featuring Santa Clause and his magical workshop. At 6 p.m., Santa rides in on his horse-drawn carriage and lights the Christmas tree, followed by a sing-along. Carriage rides are available to everyone from 6:30 to 9 p.m. for \$5.

December 16 will be Midnight Madness at Reston Town Center. A lot of stores will be staying open until midnight, and there will be various kinds of entertainment and music. Visitors can skate at the pavilion for free from 11 p.m. until midnight.

For more information on Reston Town Center, call the events hotline at 1-800-368-TOWN, the skating line at 703-709-6300, or call 703-318-1800 for movie schedules. Visit <http://www.restontowncenter.com> for directions and further information.

On yearly Canada trip, kids just wanna have fun

By Jenny Braudaway
Weekend Editor

As winter approaches swiftly, so does the annual Canada ski trip that many WS students participate in.

Although it is not a school-sponsored event, the Canada trip is a popular winter activity for students from schools all over the area. Students who participate once, usually end up going again.

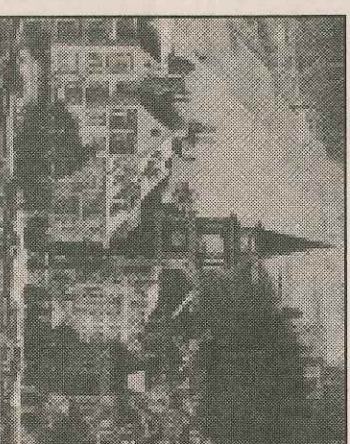
"It's such a heightened experience that everyone comes back," said senior rep Alex Gross.

Located in Quebec, Canada, Tremblant Ski Resort is rated the number one ski resort in Eastern North America. The mountain has three faces, 92 runs over 600 acres, a 2,131 foot vertical drop, and is 3,001 feet in elevation.

The resort offers features such as a challenging half-pipe and a gravity park, as well as snow-tubing, snowmobiling, and dogsledding. However, most students who go spend most of their time skiing/snowboarding or sight-seeing.

"When we're not out in the snow, most of us go into town and socialize," said junior rep Meghan Halfhill.

Each year students volunteer to be representatives to take order forms for the trip. The package includes round trip bus transportation, a three-day lift and gondola ticket, and two nights in a luxury slope-side condo. The trip costs \$349 and takes place from Jan. 26 to Jan. 30. Students room with whom they want and



Tremblant Ski Resort rests in a cozy town, that is brimmed with picturesque scenery and French-Canadian culture.

have a great amount of freedom while they are there, although chaperones attend the trip as well.

"It gives you a chance to have fun without your parents looking over you shoulder all the time," said sophomore rep Tara Austin. "The chaperones can understand."

The Canada trip appeals to students because it is a vacation in which they have freedom, they attend it with school friends, and they get to meet students from other schools in the area who also attend the trip. The skiing opportunities in Canada are excellent and the town offers its French Canadian culture, as well as many activities, including boutique shopping and parties.

"It's an incredible experience," said senior rep Sara Benjamin. "Everybody who goes comes back with their own memories."

In a Coffee Shop

By Amy Whipple
Oracle Editor

Need something to do when you're boycotting homework, or do you just not have anything better to do on weekends? As The Oracle's resident starving-artist in training, I have reviewed three local coffee houses and open mic nights. Now it's up to you to go try them out for yourselves.

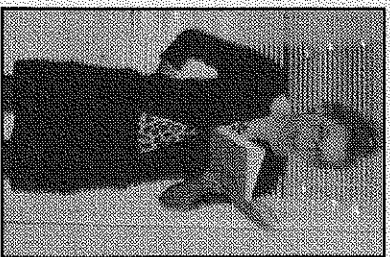
WS Symposium Coffee House

First impression: A little chaotic. The sponsor wasn't there, and not everything was set up. I was a little skeptical that they wouldn't be able to pull it off.

Price: Three dollars to get in, the coffee was free, and baked goods were 50 cents. I don't mind paying for refreshments if I get in for free, or paying to get in to cover any food costs, but both is a little much.

Spacing: Spartan Hall has plenty of room. There was enough that I could stretch out, but because of the high attendance, I wasn't sitting all alone.

Attendance [Overall, WS, Regulars]: There were about 45 people there, and most of them were from WS. The extra



Amy Whipple
Junior Jess Potter reads
at the Symposium
Coffee House.

credit sign-in-sheet at the door was a dead give away why so many people came. Some filtered out after a little while, but other than that there weren't too many interruptions.

Good: The atmosphere

was comforting. There were also many talented students who tend not to be in the spotlight as much during normal school activities. It was nice to see a change of faces up front. The equal mix of poetry and music is pleasant and prevents boredom.

Bad: There was a large lack in organization, which lead to awkward silences. These were quite unpleasant.

Bonus: Everyone knew where it was because of the access to signs in the hallways and announcements over the loudspeaker. The candles and Christmas lights were pleasant addition to the room, except some people kept stepping too close to them for my stomach to handle.

Next chance: Possibly in the spring, if not there won't be another until next fall.

Last impression: I had a good time, got extra credit for few classes, and was overall nicely entertained. I would go again if I got the chance, and if it happened more often, attendance might go up and the environment might become more familiar.

Starbucks Open Mic Night

First impression: Where is everyone? There were four people besides myself, two of whom kept going in and out and all around.

Price: Free to get in, but coffee and all the extras were at the bar. Since this is Starbucks, drinks run fairly high in price.

Spacing: Very crowded. I felt a little uncomfortable all squashed up with everyone else.

Attendance [Overall, WS, Regulars]: There were around 10 people there. They all seemed to know each other, and I was the only person from WS. About half were teenagers, but the other half were middle aged.

Good: The first lady who played did a fairly decent rendition of my favorite Patsy Cline song. Okay, so it's the only Patsy Cline song I know, but it was still good. The open mic was filled with all guitar music, no poetry or anything else. It was a nice change from the standard.

Bad: The acoustics weren't very well done. Even though everyone was all together it was still hard to hear. Also, sets didn't appear to be regulated, and one guy played the guitar for over a half an hour. I couldn't stop watching people going in and out of the two doors on opposite sides of the store. People walking through the space made it very hard to concentrate on what was going on music wise.

Bonus: Starbucks coffee, need I say anything else?

Next chance: Every Wednesday, 7:30.

Last impression: I couldn't take it anymore, and had to leave. This place is not for the attention-span-impaired. I might give it another chance after the holiday season is over and schedules are back to normal.

Borders Open Mic Night

First impression: The atmosphere reminds me of the Oracle office. It's really busy, and no one is really sure what's going on because so much is.

Price: Free to get in, but food and drinks are costly at the bar.

Spacing: Open, but not enough tables to seat everyone comfortably.

Attendance [Overall, WS, Regulars]: There were about 20 people in and out, some coming to see friends, others just happened upon it after getting a cup of coffee. There were about 10 WS students, and about half the attendees overall were regulars. The age ranged from an elementary school girl to an elderly man who read poems about vegetables.

Good: Friendly atmosphere, and fairly well organized. There's lots of humor distributed amongst the attendees, which



Amy Whipple

Senior Kellyn Ashpole is a guitar regular at the Borders Open Mic night.

breaks up any seriousness that might have ever been there. I am able to be as obnoxious as can be without getting kicked out. I was actually one of the more sane people there that night.

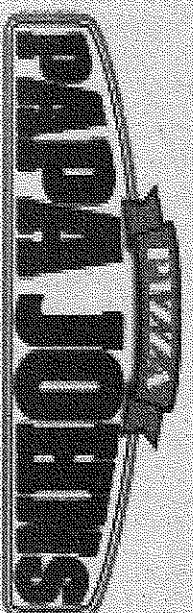
Bad: The people who are regulars stick out, which can be intimidating. They're open to newcomers, which is good, but not everyone is as outgoing as I am. My advice would be to bring a few friends along until you're familiar with the other people there.

Bonus: Sets are broken up to around two or three songs/poems/whatever, and then when everyone has had a turn the cycle starts again. This is very nice for those of us who can't sit still. It's also easier to get up and move around without feeling rude. Also, during lulls, the "fearless leader" reads children's books, which is, well, different but fun.

Next chance: Thursday, December 21 at 8. It runs until no one else will perform, which is usually around 9 or 9:30. They usually hold it on the fourth Thursday of every month, and they post the next date on the bulletin boards around the store.

Last impression: I'm about four hundred times more hyped when I leave, and I can't wait to come back next month. Even out of the people from WS, I usually only see them at this, so it's something to look forward to. This event provided the most versatility music and poetry wise, and is probably your best bet to kill a Thursday night. Good luck!

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Norv Turner gets axed as coach of the Redskins

Passing coordinator Robiskie becomes interim coach

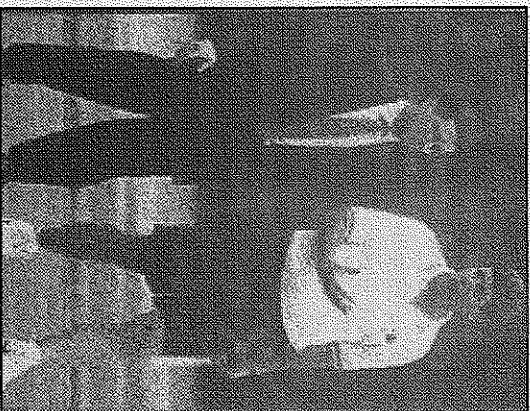
By Myles Curran
Sports Editor

After seven seasons of failure, the Washington Redskins fired coach Norv Turner last Tuesday.

Turner was axed after the Redskins lost to the New York Giants 9-7, on December 3. The loss marked the Redskins third streak of two losses in a row for the season, and took their record to 7-6.

Turner, who compiled a 49-59-1 record as the coach of the Redskins, will be replaced by interim head coach Terry Robiskie.

Robiskie had been the passing coach for the Redskins this season. He is described as an extreme motivator and is known for getting into heated arguments with players. Robiskie was brought into the organization by



Former coach Norv Turner and owner Daniel Snyder never appeared to get along.

Turner in 1994. "I think it is about time that they fired Turner—he didn't

win," said junior David Panzykowski. "I was at the game against the Giants and it was pathetic. He knows more than me, but he doesn't know much. Good riddance to Norv."

After spending over \$100 million during the off-season on free agents, owner Daniel Snyder expected a Super Bowl caliber team. But the new players didn't add up to wins as the team's kicking game has haunted them all season.

In all, the team has had a total of four kickers—Brett Conway, Michael Husted, Kris Heppner, and Eddie Murray. Missed kicks played an outcome in four potential wins for the

Redskins. "Turner was never a winner," said junior Trey Jordan. "From the start the team hasn't performed. Even with this giant payroll, he couldn't win."

Injuries have also played a key part in the Redskins failures this season. Two All-Pro offensive linemen were lost for the year in the first two weeks. Guard The Johnson and center Andy Heck were both lost for the year due to knee injuries. Also, the teams best wide receiver, Michael Westbrook, tore his ACL in week 4. Since then, second tier receivers Albert Connell and Irving Fryar have had to pick up the slack. Stars Stephen Davis and Brad Johnson have also missed games.

"The injuries killed the team this year," said sophomore Dan Handorf. "I think if everyone

was always healthy, their record would've been a lot better than it turned out to be."

Even though there are many downsides to the season, some things still look bright. The defense greatly improved over last seasons embarrassing moments, and running back Stephen Davis had another 1,000 yard season.

The young members of the team developed well over the season. Cornerback Champ Bailey emerged as one of the best defensive backs in the league. Rookie Chris Samuels and Lavarr Arrington also had solid campaigns at tackle and linebacker, respectively.

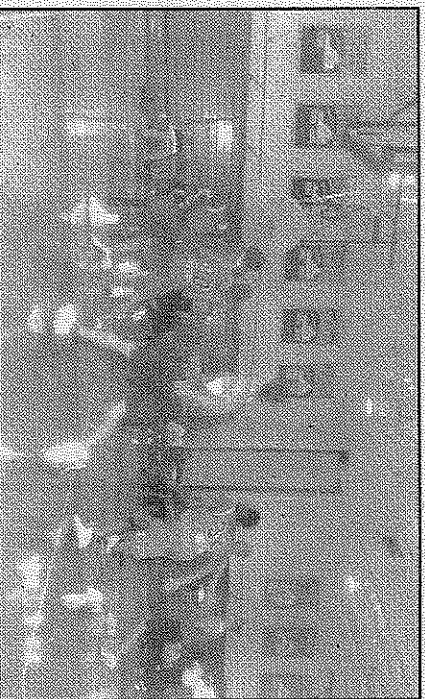
"I think the team will be fine," said junior Mike Stillejo. "The team that was supposed to win is still here. The playoffs are in the future, and a long run in them at that."

Boys basketball roars out to a hot start

Team prepares for holiday tournament in Chesapeake

By Mike Waldron
Oracle Editor

The boys basketball team is off to a 3-0 start—with impressive wins coming against Edison, Langley and Mount Vernon—which makes this start the best during coach Dick Wickline's four-year tenure at WS.



Jenae Elierman

The boys basketball team has been training hard for months on end, and the players say trips have played a role in their development.

Whitworth, Jason McCoy, and Ryan Schlicher, make up a group of seniors who have played on the varsity team since their sophomore years. And in junior

Jeff Evans, the Spartans have an all-district player who draws a lot of attention from the opposition. With the experience and leadership of these players, the boys basketball program has improved over the last few seasons. But this year's early success can not only be attributed to the players.

When Wickline first came to WS, he brought a new attitude, and a belief that players could improve as individuals and as a team by going out of town to play. So as most students will enjoy the winter break in the comfort of their homes, the members of the boys basketball team will enjoy it in the comfort of small hotel rooms, but they do not mind.

The team will travel to Chesapeake to compete in the Oscar Smith Holiday Classic, which is an eight-team tournament that goes from

December 27 to December 29.

"We think it will be good for the team," said assistant coach Charlie Scudder, who also noted that it was the players' idea to go away during the break.

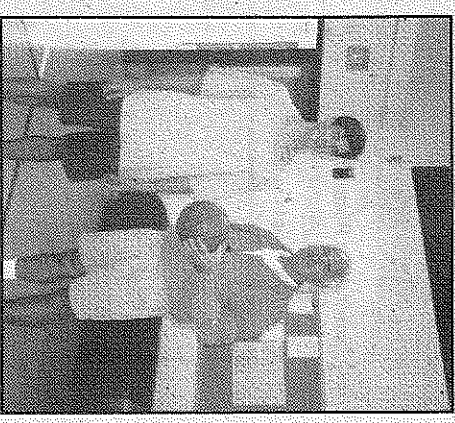
This year's veteran team has high hopes, and part of the reason is that the team has learned many lessons on its trips. Last July, the

Spartans won the championship at VCU's team camp, which draws more than 30 varsity

teams each year. According to Scudder, the VCU trip showed the players how to compete and win against very good teams.

"It's fun to go away, because we improve as individuals and as a team, and we also get to see where we stand against the competition," said Lazisky.

One goal is to win, but another is to come together as a unit.



Oracle File Photo

Coach Dick Wickline and the Spartans are off to a 3-0 start.

"I just want the team to get better," said Wickline.

The players do also, or they would not have been so willing to give up part of their winter break.

"We're looking forward to the trip to Chesapeake," said Evans, who was the team's leading scorer last year. "even if it means giving up part of our winter break."

Trainers and managers keep teams going throughout the season

By Katie Walker
Production Editor

Players and coaches aren't the only people necessary to keep up the sports tradition at WS. Behind the scenes, trainers and managers are also important to the team.

Most sports have managers who help to keep things running smoothly on the team. They add inspiration and support from the bench to the players.

Managing is a chance for students to get involved in a sport they enjoy without playing.

"I became a manager to get involved with basketball," said junior Joanna Bonilla, who is managing for the Varsity boys basketball team this season. "We're

in charge of keeping statistics, running the scoreboard, and giving the players water." Student trainers deal with injured players or take measures to prevent injuries.

Trainers may travel with the team, as is the case with the football team, and they are also available after school during the time when many teams are holding their practices.

Senior Lexie Wilson was a trainer for

the WS football team.

"We taped people, stretched them, and took care of them when they got hurt," she said.

Student trainers got a chance to help out a lot of players and meet new people. "It was fun," said Wilson. "I liked training because I got to interact with a lot of different players and coaches."

The players appreciate what managers and trainers do to help their teams.

"Managers are very helpful to have at games," said sophomore field hockey player Melissa Zoller. "They help us and give us motivation to win."



Bree Winkles

Managers and trainers play a valuable role in the sports program, and they do this by taking care of the little things.

WS sports teams get funding from Fairfax County, Booster Club, and fundraising

By Amy Steed

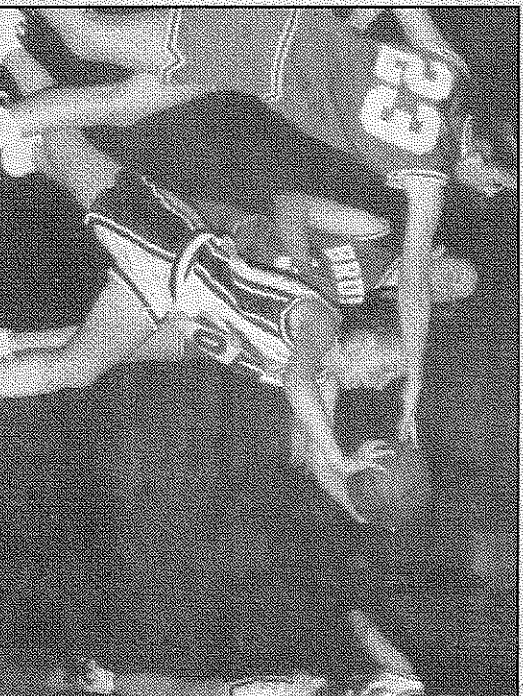
News Assistant

Prom and sporting events may not seem to have much in common, but neither would take place if it was not for fundraising. Classes have to raise money to pay for their prom and sports teams have to find way to gather money for the extra pieces of equipment they need.

Fairfax County is able to give each school so much money, but that is not enough to cover all the needs of WS' list of fall, winter and spring sports. To help defter costs, groups like the Spartan Booster Club exist along with other venues that make money.

"The majority of our money comes from gate receipts, athletic boosters, vending machines around the school, and donations from alumni," director of athletics said Tod Chappell.

The Spartan Booster Club alone can bring in \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year to help out sports teams. Unlike other clubs, the Boosters are able to help out the



Oracle File Photo

Sport teams at WS often do their own fundraising, though Fairfax County and the Booster Club provide some money.

rest of the WS population at the same time. Their contributions allow for the maintaining of our fields, weight room and gyms, which are used by all WS students.

Even after, money from Fairfax County, the Boosters, and other donations, sports

teams are still left short on money if they have excessive needs or want extra perks for their teams. This is where sports team fundraising comes in.

The wrestlers not only need uniforms every couple of years, but they also need disinfectant for their mats, tape, helmets,

travel bags, warm-ups, money to pay officials, and medals.

"We get money for some of our needs, but we fundraise for the rest," said coach Gary Embrey. "I have always been able to get everything and anything we needed."

To ensure that his team gets all it needs, the wrestlers host a tournament that brings in a several thousand dollars that all goes towards the wrestling spending account.

Wrestling isn't the only sport fundraising. Even the well-known Lady Spartans have to find ways to make extra money to fund their game.

"We are given our balls and scorebooks, but that is about it," said coach Bill Gibson.

All sports teams have access to money allotted for sports teams, but each sport has its own account to help fund the extra things they want. All teams are eligible to spend the money they raise, but if money ever runs short in the general account they

know their money can go towards helping buy the bare essentials for another team. There are two exceptions to this rule: crew and ice hockey are not Fairfax County sponsored sports, so they will

"The majority of our money comes from gate receipts, athletic boosters, and donations from alumni"

-Tod Chappell, director of athletics

never have access to the money raised by the Booster Club, or any other money in the general account. Both teams rely on their own extra financial contributions, donations and fundraisers.

"Fundraising is never easy, but it is necessary," said Embrey.

WS athletes keep up grades to stay active in sports

By Nikki Werking

Oracle Editor

Fairfax County has a policy to make sure sports aren't taking over high school students' lives.

The rule throughout Fairfax County schools is that if you are failing five of your seven classes, you can no longer participate in school sports.

WS attempts to keep track of students' grades with a signature sheet. Athletes must take the

form to each of their seven teachers, and the teachers must sign the form verifying that the student is either passing or failing the class. Some sports keep up with the forms on a regular basis, while others may only ask that the form be signed once a season. Other sports never ask their athletes to fill out these forms.

Students who are failing five or more of their classes are



Russ Waddell

Sophomore Brendan Quinn, JV football player, gets some studying done in the hallway.

suspended from their sports until their grades improve to the appropriate level.

Most WS students, however, don't have problems with this policy. Parents usually enforce a higher standard if you want to play on any high school team.

"My school work is more important than my sports because my parents would be really mad if I made bad grades," said senior Greg Gunn,

who participates in cross country and track.

In order to balance sports practices with homework, students have little time to relax or goof off.

"As soon as school's over, I go home, do my homework, eat, then go to practice," said junior Jocelyn Reed, a cheerleader. "I really don't have any time to watch TV or relax."

Women's pro soccer to debut

By Emily Morris

Features Assistant

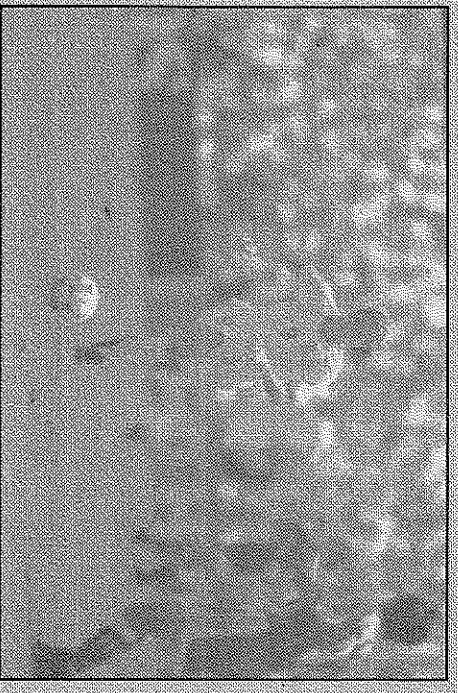
It all started at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Now, soccer star Mia Hamm is coming home again.

Major League Soccer is expanding at RFK Stadium, with the creation of a women's league with eight teams. One of the team, the Washington Freedom, will showcase Olympian and former LB stand-out Hamm in its midfield.

M.L.S. officials hope that the Freedom will draw as many fans as the Women's National Basketball Association, which debuted a DC team in 1998.

"I think it's great that a professional women's soccer league is coming to DC," said junior Edward Garis. "Hopefully it will succeed. I really think it is awesome women sports are becoming more and more popular."

There is some evidence that a women's professional soccer league will be successful. Since the WNBA's first season in 1997, the women have played



Mia Hamm will come to DC as part of Major League Soccer.

before record crowds. The M.L.S. DC's professional women's basketball team, holds the league record for fan attendance for home games at the MCI Centre.

Since the enactment of Title IX by Congress in 1972, girls' high school and college teams have had equal access to funding for equipment and training. And the number of girls playing competitive sports is now at an all-time high.

"I think that it is just one more step for women. First there was the WNBA and now there is a professional women's soccer league," said sophomore Emily Mashoe. "I predict that soon there will be more women's leagues, like for hockey and maybe even football."

Of course, the success of any

sports team depends on fan support, which generates not only gate receipts but merchandise sales.

"I think that the league's survival will be based on the money it brings in," said social studies teacher Nadine Woods. "However, it would be a shame if it does not reach success. I think the female soccer players would be great role models."

Many local female soccer players plan to support the professional women's league starting up soon.

"I will probably go to at least one or two women's games because it is so close, and I think it will be fun since it's something new," said freshman and travel soccer player Allison Hobson.

Football team purchases new helmet to raise team spirit

By Mike Arai

Sports Assistant

The WS football team rushes onto the large field into a stadium filled with cheering fans emerging from a giant orange and blue inflatable helmet.

"I think it [the helmet] helped with spirit," said varsity football coach Bill Renner. "It has done a lot for the team."

According to Renner, WS is the only high school in the nation, with the exception of some in Texas, to have a giant helmet. The helmet is an inflatable tunnel that is blown up for the home games.

Renner and some parents came up with the idea of getting the helmet, which, according to a representative at Inflatable Images, usually costs \$7,000. However, all the money came from sponsors, who include the Football Parents Group and Shell.

The helmet was purchased from Inflatable Images, a company located near Cleveland, Ohio, and was received last summer.

Many of the football players agree that the helmet has raised the team's spirit.



The WS football team purchased a helmet like this, which usually cost about \$7,000.

"It inspires us...changes our attitudes," said sophomore Mike Watson. "It pumps you up and raises our spirits."

Other members of the team believe that the helmet might even make them try a little bit harder.

"I think it gives us a little bit of intensity," said sophomore Matt Lappat.

Most agreed with Lappat. "It gets us a little pumped up," said junior Jeremy Kapinos.

However, some disagree and think that the helmet does not add to spirit or effort.

"I don't think any material thing can [raise spirit]," said assistant football coach Brian Puhlick. "I think teams play well when classmates are cheering for them."

Are they really sports? What exactly constitutes a sport?

By Joey Tinsley
Staff Assistant

What makes a sport a sport?

A sport is a recreational activity. Many people question whether or not certain sports are truly sports. Some of these sports in question are pool, hunting, dancing, darts and cheerleading.

Some people may not consider pool a sport. This is because they just shoot at the balls with no real plan and do not care where the balls go as long as they go in the pockets. Pool is a sport because

of the skill that it takes to put the balls in the pockets. In a professional tournament the players have to call where they will shoot the balls and these players must be thinking three to four shots ahead.

"Pool is a sport because it is competitive and you can gamble on it," said senior obsessive Tom Fredericks.

Aside from pool another sport that some people question is hunting. How hunting can be questioned I do not know. Hunting is a sport that requires the skill to shoot a target (sometimes moving) from a variety

of distances with a gun or another type of weapon. To capture this skill can take a lot of practice and time.

Dancing is another activity that has been denied by some to fall in the category of being a sport. Dancing has been considered a sport because it takes rhythm and good coordination.

"I never, ever thought of dancing as being a sport," said senior Beth Gibson.

Darts has got some people wondering whether it should be considered a sport or not. This is a game in which the object is to throw pointed objects at a board and try to hit the bulls eye (the smallest circle in the middle). This is kind of like archery without the bow and arrow.

"Darts is a sport in my mind, it takes a lot of skill to hit the target with the tip of your dart," said senior Pat Becker.

Cheerleading is an activity that has been a hot topic for this discussion in recent years. Many people do not consider it a sport, and some do (most of them are cheerleaders). Although cheerleading is a recreational activity, it does not require too much skill. Cheering and clapping is an "activity" that most people could do. The one thing in the cheerleader's defense is that they hold people up in the air, which does take some skill.



Hunting requires endless skill and accuracy.

"Cheerleading is not a sport at all. They are there to support the real teams, no one is there to watch them because they are not the ones competing and they are boring to watch," said senior Brian Kluckman.

When deciding if a sport is truly a sport, the final decision is in the eye of the beholders.



Oracle File Photo

Cheerleading is a popular activity for teenage girls nationwide.



Fishing combines patience and skill

Athletes of the Issue

Jeff Evans Boys Basketball

Athletic Highlight: Making first-team all-district in 2000

Favorite Athlete: Vince Carter

Favorite Team: Oakland Raiders

Pregame Ritual: Pumping Wu-Tang in the locker room

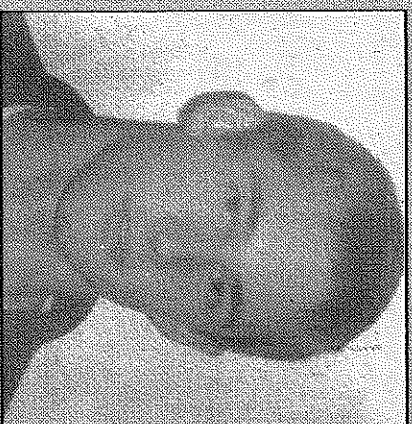
Most Embarrassing

Sports Moment: Wearing the wrong color uniform to an away game

Superstitions: None

Years of Experience: 10

Other Sport: Soccer



Russ Waddell

Kristin Hamilton Swimming

Athletic Highlight: Swimming in the all-star relay carnival in 1998

Favorite Athlete: Her teammates

Favorite Team: Her swim team

Most Embarrassing

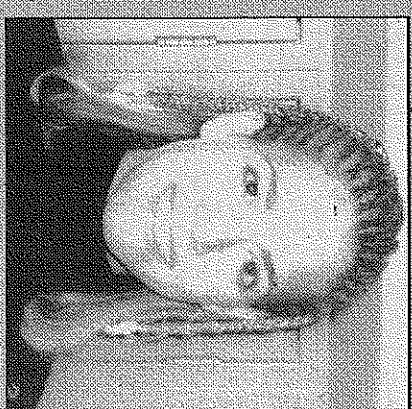
Sports Moment: Wearing a see-through, silver bathing suit

Superstitions: Broken goggles as a bad sign

Years of Experience: 10

Other Sport: Lacrosse

—Compiled by Mike Waldron



Russ Waddell

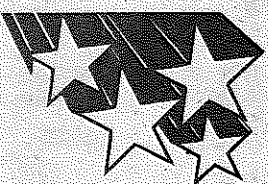


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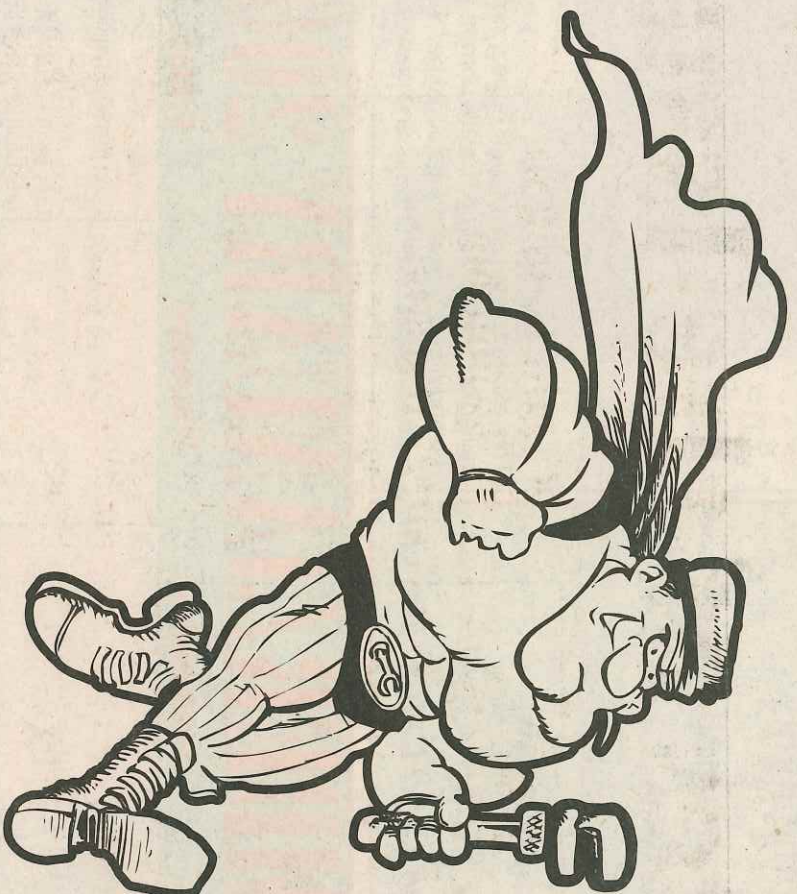
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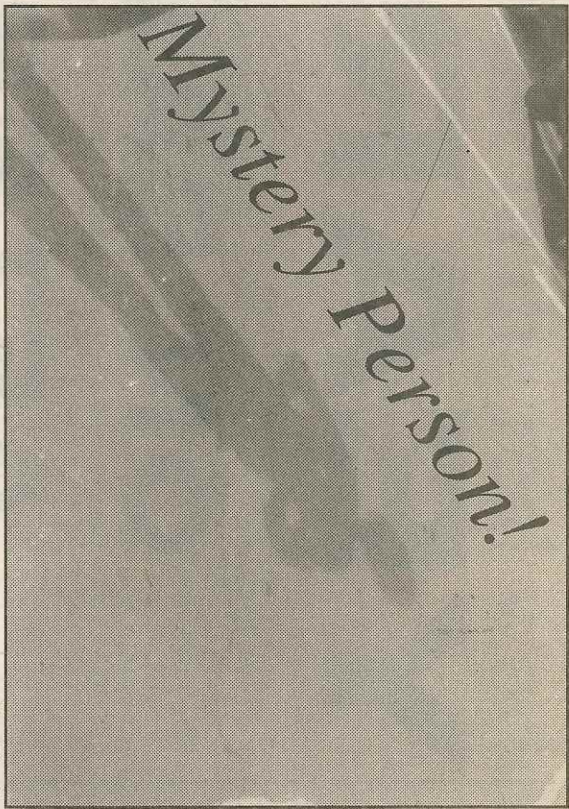
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Top 10 ways to make extra Holiday cash

10. Sell your body to science.
9. Pretend you are a Salvation Army Santa and solicit dinero.
8. Did somebody say McDonalds...employee?
7. Learn to say over and over, "And would you like fries with that?"
6. Sell all of your mom's seventies clothes to people who are attempting to relive the decade.
5. Do you really need siblings? Nooo...
4. Sell your hair to Dolly Parton. She has her own wig company.
3. Go to the rich neighborhoods and sell tickets to anyone who pulls up to view the lights.
2. Get your friends together and recreate *Stomp*, the Broadway Classic. Leave a cup out for donations.
1. Moonlight as a lunchlady. Sloppy Joe! Sloppy Sloppy Joe!
—Compiled by Julie Davis and Caitlin Marvin



Bree Virostko

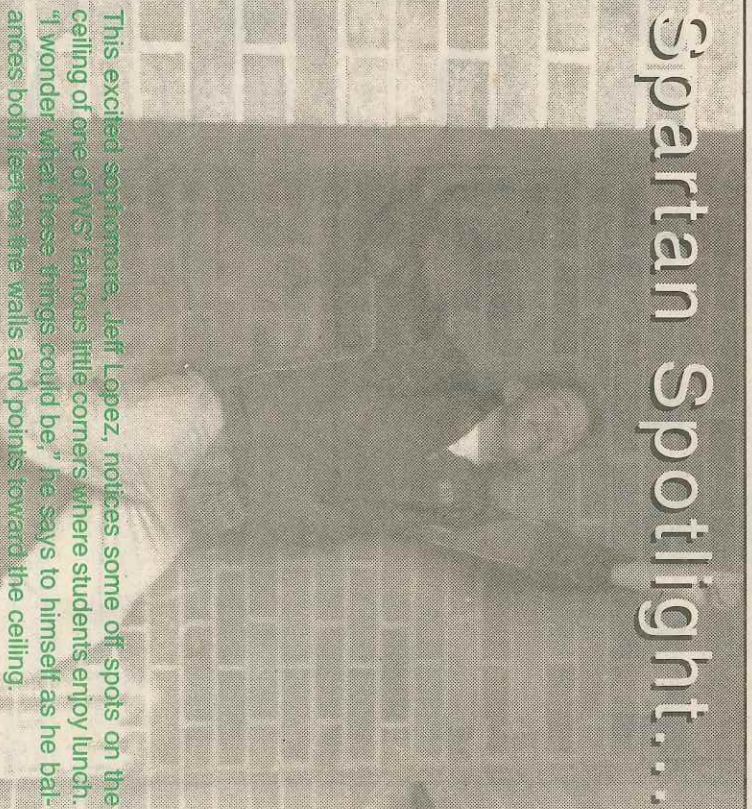
By Nanya Gupta
Inside Story Editor

Our mystery person is a freshman and it is easy to find him running cross country or track after school. Last time he ran the mile, he finished in a speedy 5:47.

Sneak up on him at home, and he will probably be watching a Redskins game or watching an action movie while eating a cheese pizza. If not a movie or a sports game, he might be watching his favorite cartoon character, Homer Simpson.

He's not sure what he wants to be when he grows up; maybe an architect, but he definitely wants to be successful. Right now, however, his favorite class is PE. If you are trying to find him in the halls, look for a flannel shirt and his original hair, which he feels best expresses his individuality.

Spartan Spotlight...



This excited sophomore, Jeff Lopez, notices some off spots on the ceiling of one of WVS famous little corners where students enjoy lunch. "I wonder what these things could be," he says to himself as he balances both feet on the walls and points toward the ceiling.

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2000

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 PSAT return Gymnastics @ Oakton-7 Class of 2003 Candy Sale all week	12 Boys Bball @ Thomas Jefferson-8 Girls Bball @ Thomas Jefferson-6	13	14	15 Wrestling Statesman Invitational @ Marshall	16
18	19 Boys Bball @ Centerville-4, 5:45, 7:30 Girls Bball v. Centerville-4, 5:45, 7:30 Guitar Ensemble-7:30-9:30	20 Thespian Comedy Night Key Club Bloodmobile JV Wrestling Mad Quad @ Madison-5	21	22 Hanukkah Begins Swin Team @ Mt. Vernon-6:30	23 Indoor Track @ GMU 8:30am Feast of Carols 6-8pm
25 Christmas Day	26 Girls Varsity Bball in Ft. Myers, FL. for the City of Palms Classic (27-29) Wrestling Cavalier Invitational @ Woodson	27	28	29	30 V Wrestling Quad @ WS-1pm
WINTER VACATION—HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE ORACLE STAFF					
1 2001!	2 Boys Bball v. Robinson-4, 5:45, 7:30 Girls Bball @ Robinson-4, 5:45, 7:30 Classes resume	3	4	5	6
8 New Years Day	9 Boys Bball v. Annandale-4, 5:45, 7:30 Girls Bball @ Annandale-4, 5:45, 7:30	10 Gymnastics @ Stone-7 Military Recruitment @ lunch Wrestling @ Hayfield-6, 7:30	11	12 Swin team @ Wakefield-6 Boys Bball @ L. Braddock-4, 5:45, 7:30 Girls Bball v. L. Braddock-4, 5:45, 7:30	13 JV Wrestling Jamboree @ Garfield-9am